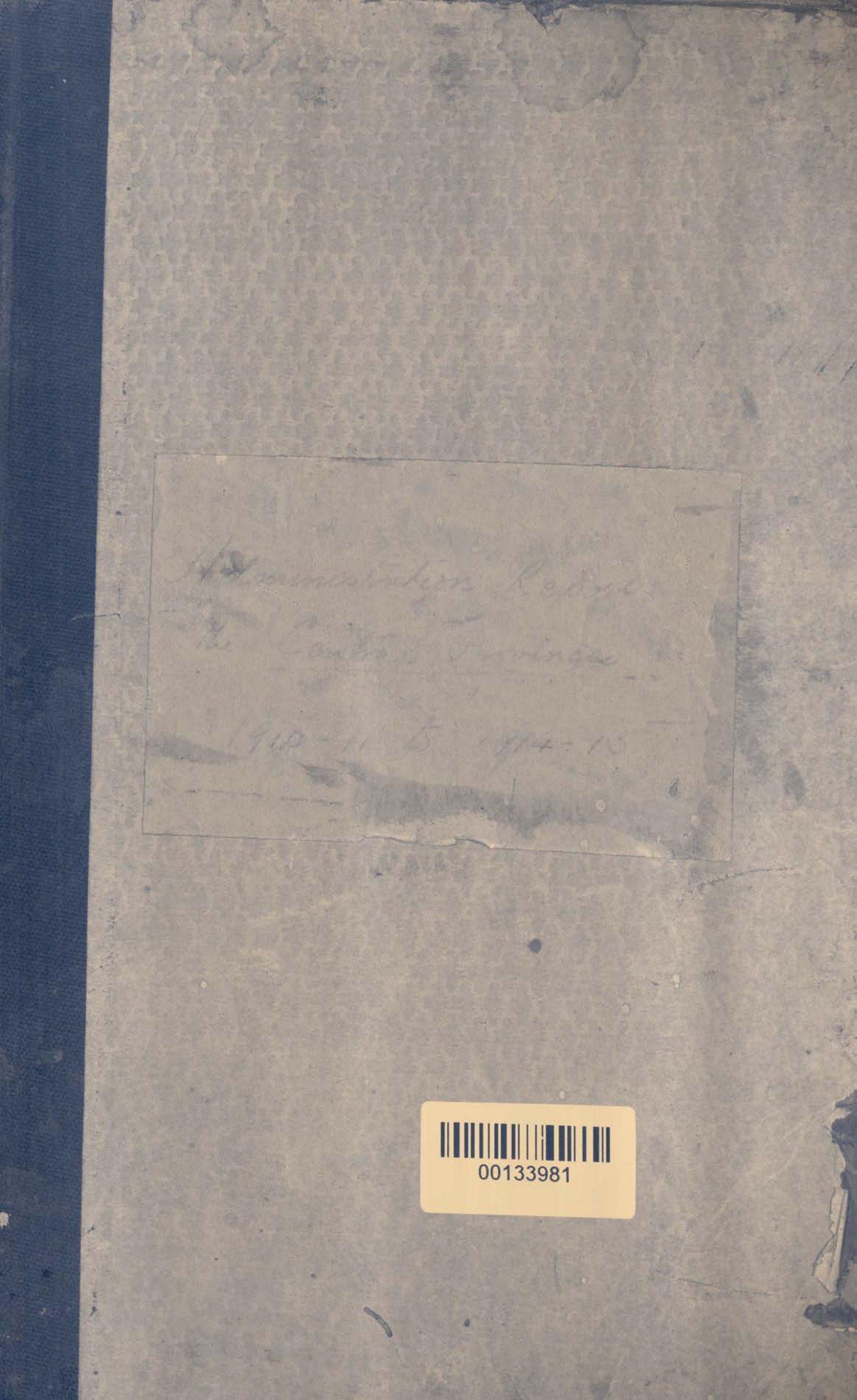
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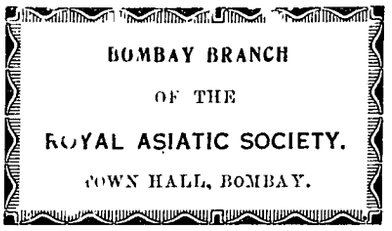

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REPORT

ON THE

133981

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR

FOR THE YEAR

1910-11

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1910-11.

PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY

Introduction.

The reports on which this review of the administration of the Central Provinces and Berar is based relate to the several different periods specified at the head of each section in Part II, and, as was pointed out in the Introduction to the Report for 1909-10, the various periods of 12 months to which the different sections of this report refer cover in all a period of 21 months, beginning on 1st October 1909 and ending on the 30th June 1911.

General.

2. The monsoon of 1909 was on the whole favourable and brought about a marked fall in the prices of food-grains. The monsoon of 1910-11 opened favourab'y. In August, September, and the beginning of October heavy rainfall damaged the kharif crops, but the loss was made good by the cultivation of a larger rabi area than usual, and the late rain was favourable for double cropping, the area so treated being larger than that recorded in any previous year. The outturn of rice was above the normal, the wheat crop was good in the important districts and normal for the Province as a whole, linseed and til did well, while cotton suffered from the late rains. The year was on the whole distinctly favourable, trade was brisk, and labour was in great demand. The seditious propaganda, which had been the feature of past years, were not in evidence, the discipline in the schools improved and there was no cause to be dissatisfied with the behaviour of the younger generation. Plague unfortunately was prevalent throughout the period, but the birth-rate was exceptionally high. The general health of the people may be said to have been good in spite of a high mortality figure which is the natural result of high birth-rates during recent years and a large increase in the infant population. In consequence of the appearance of Halley's Comet large stocks of grain were held up : these kept prices at a low level in spite of larger exports.

Administration.

3. The office of the Chief Commissioner was held by the Hon'ble Mr. R. H. Craddock, C. S. I., I. C. S., throughout the year.

Relations with Feudatory States.

4. The monsoon of 1910 was very favourable in the States, the crops were good, trade was brisk, and prices were lower than in the preceding year. The forest tribes in Bastar, whose rebellion was described in the Report for last year,

settled down to their cultivation immediately after their ringleaders had been dealt with and seem now contented with the rule of the Chief, who is assisted by European officers as his Diwan and Assistant Diwan. The land revenue was collected, save in an insignificant number of cases, without resort to any form of coercive process. Serious crimes, apart from those committed in the Bastar rebellion, were few. The public health was good, though cholera appeared in some of the States. In all the States except Bastar, where several schools were burnt by rebels, education made steady progress.

Realization of Revenue.

5. The revision of assessments in districts under settlement added more than 1½ lakhs to the demand in the Central Provinces and Berar. Agriculturists enjoyed a prosperous season, and in consequence it was possible to collect practically all unsuspended arrears and a large portion of the suspended arrears of land revenue without difficulty. Repayments under the Agriculturists' and Land Improvement Loans Acts were satisfactory, and the demand for fresh loans fell off in consequence of the improvement in the finances of the cultivating classes.

Settlement.

6. A marked feature of the year was the quickening up of Settlement operations, which were in progress in Jubbulpore, Mandla, Damoh, Wardha, Raipur, Drug, Bilaspur Khalsa, Bilaspur Zamindaris, Balaghat, Saugor, and the Melghat Taluq of the Amraoti District.

Land Records.

7. Steps have been taken to improve the prospects of the Land Records staff. In Nagpur and Wardha, where the cost of living is high, the minimum pay of the patwaris has been raised.

Court of Wards.

8. About 9 per cent of the area of the Province was administered by the Court of Wards. The cost of management fell from 18 to 16 per cent, and satisfactory progress was made in the liquidation of debt and the construction of improvements. The management of home-farms was not everywhere satisfactory, mainly because men of the right stamp are not available in sufficient numbers to supervise this work. Arrangements have been made by the Agricultural Department to supply trained *kamdars*. In other respects the management compared not unfavourably with that of the best resident land-owners.

Public Justice and Security.

9. Most of the reforms advocated by the Police Commission have now been carried out, and the schemes for the reallocation of the police forces are being introduced district by district with satisfactory results. There was a large decrease in the number of cognizable cases in spite of further improvements in reporting, to which particular attention continues to be paid, especially in Berar. The police in Berar proved very successful in dealing with dacoities. It is satisfactory to note that there were no reported cases of torture by the police during the year. The detachments from the district special armed reserves which served in Bastar acquitted themselves well under very trying conditions.

Prisons.

10. The general prosperity of the Province led to a decrease in the prison population. There are signs that the increase of tasks, the tightening of discipline in Jails, and the increased attention paid by the police to the prevention of crime are making Jail life unpopular with the habitual criminal. The health statistics were below the exceptionally good standard of the previous year, the aboriginal prisoners from Bastar State, most of whom have since been released, standing confinement badly.

Civil Justice.

11. The effect of the restriction of the period of limitation in certain suits for foreclosure and sale allowed by the Limitation Act of 1908 and the general prosperity led to a further increase in litigation, and special measures were adopted to cope with the pressure of work. Pending files increased considerably, but it is hoped that they will soon be reduced to their normal figure.

Municipal administration.

12. The number of Municipalities remained unchanged at 57. In the Central Provinces the attendance of members was satisfactory, but in Berar it was poor. The interest in elections varies greatly in different places. The total income rose from Rs. 24,30,682 to Rs. 25,20,695, of which 3¼ lakhs was contributed by Government, mainly for the purpose of sanitary improvements. The income from taxation increased, octroi receipts in particular rising everywhere in response to the prosperity of the year except in five towns where plague had a depressing effect. The Municipalities had in all Rs. 42,39,329 available for expenditure and paid out Rs. 32,91,367, or Rs. 2,63,529 more than in the previous year, thereby reducing their closing balances to Rs. 9,47,962. The cost of collection of taxes fell from 11 to 10 per cent in the Central Provinces, while in Berar it remained unaltered at 3 per cent, the difference being due to the fact that octroi is not levied in Berar. In Nagpur Rs. 3,62,880 were spent on the construction of the Gorewara Scheme, and in Harda and Seoni Rs. 70,000 and Rs. 27,000 were spent on the completion of the schemes for improvement of the water-works. Drainage schemes have been prepared for Saugor, Akola, Khamgaon, and Wardha, and surveys of Amraoti Town and Khamgaon have been sanctioned. Fourteen Municipalities have taken loans from Government and two from private persons. The total balance outstanding at the close of 1910-11 was Rs. 18,85,340, of which over 13 lakhs are debited to the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Municipalities. The financial position of both is sound and their credit has increased remarkably of late.

District Councils and Local Boards.

13. In Betul the District Council and Local Boards were reconstituted to bring in the Bhainsdehi Local Board, and in Chanda the Zamindari Board became a Local Board under the District Council. Meetings of District Councils and Local Boards were held regularly as a rule, but attendance of members was not always satisfactory. Local Boards have been given increased powers with regard to the execution of work and control of expenditure. Elections were in some cases contested, and there were signs that electors took greater interest than heretofore in these events. There is not much of note in the year's work. Income and expenditure fell by Rs. 17,000 and Rs. 1,71,000, the latter being due mainly to curtailment of public works in Berar. Expenditure on education absorbed. 36 per cent of the total income in the Central Provinces and 34 per cent in Berar The expenditure on roads in the Central Provinces only amounted to half the road cess, and this is a matter which the Divisional Engineers, who are to take up work on April 1st, 1912, will have to look into.

Agricultural Department.

14. The work of the Agricultural Department is still prevented from expanding by the difficulty of providing a full staff. A Provincial Service has been sanctioned and the subordinate service has been divided into a higher and a lower service. The College will shortly be provided with a proper laboratory and class rooms. The students are keen on the newly sanctioned degree of L. Ag., which is only granted to men who pass in the 1st Class. The Department made good progress in pressing the extension of rice-transplantation and in experiments and demonstrations, one of the most hopeful results of which

was the establishment by a private firm of a bone-crushing factory at Raipur. The demand for cotton seed grown on the Akola Farm was in excess of the supply. In the north of the Province the search for improved varieties of wheat, and the demonstration of a better system of kharif cultivation, were the main features of the year's work. Agriculturists' associations did good work, particularly where they limited themselves to the solution of some special local problem.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

15. A whole-time Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies was appointed in October 1910, but owing to changes of incumbents the work had to be restricted mainly to reorganizing existing societies and removing defects. In Jubbulpore and Balaghat the movement is well established and considerable new ground was broken. The Central Banks are proving successful in providing capital and are being brought into touch with the Joint Stock Banks. The movement is spreading. The number of societies has now reached 287, with a membership of 8,450 and a working capital of Rs. 3,27,565. Government aid has been reduced almost to vanishing point; further steady growth is assured, and the duty of the Registrar will be to hold back rather than to urge on the people.

Weather and Crops.

16. These two subjects have already been discussed in the opening paragraphs of this summary. It is sufficient to note that the spring crops of the agricultural year of 1910-11 were excellent, while the autumn crops were fairly good. The cotton crop was damaged by late rain, but the loss was partly made good by the excellent prices obtained. The year was one of general prosperity, and all traces of the damage caused by the bad season of 1907-08 disappeared.

Forests.

17. The area under the control of the Forest Department decreased by 52 square miles owing to recalculations of areas and disforestment of land required for cultivation. New working plans were prepared and old plans revised in ten Divisions. The Bhandara Division working plan was sanctioned, and there are now only 2,724 square miles out of 21,384 in which plans are still required. In the near future, however, it will be necessary to frame working plans for over two lakhs of acres in the Melghat, the transfer of which from C-III Class to A Class forest has been sanctioned by the Government of India since the close of the year. The system of associating Revenue officers in the preparation of working plans has given good results.

The total outlay on roads, buildings, tanks, and wells amounted to Rs. 1,90,418, or about Rs. 10,000 less than in the previous year. Forest offences fell by 2 per cent. Conditions were not altogether favourable for fire-protection operations, but there was a decrease in the number of cases of injury by fire, and the success obtained was greater than in 1909-10. The area under systematic fellings rose and the outturn of major produce increased by 47 per cent, while that of minor produce remained practically stationary. The year was a very bad one for lac; it is, however, considered advisable to persevere with departmental dealings in this product. The total income of the year rose by Rs. 57,234, in spite of a fall of Rs. 59,248 in the Southern Circle. This Circle worked at a nett loss of Rs. 35,522, and for the Province as a whole the surplus fell by Rs. 34,334. Since the close of the year a scheme for the improvement of the subordinate forest service has been worked out.

Mines and Quarries.

18. In consequence of more systematic working there was a considerable increase in the outturn of manganese, the price of which improved slightly.

The output of coal decreased only slightly, but the value fell by 24 per cent. The Ballarpur Colliery continues to do well, and gave a return for 1910 of 21 per cent.

Prices and Trade.

19. The people generally thought that the appearance of Halley's Comet would bring a bad harvest. Large stocks of grain were held up in expectation of a rise in prices. The crops were, however, good, and the prices of food-grain fell: wheat by 20 per cent, juar by 21, and rice by 8 per cent. Cotton, in consequence of the shortage in the American crop, rose by 33 per cent, til and linseed by 15 and 35 per cent, respectively. A large increase in the export of wheat and manganese raised the bulk of exports by 10 per cent, but the value fell by 4 per cent. Imports, on the other hand, decreased in bulk by 7 per cent, but increased in value by 6 per cent. Imports of manufactured cotton, which were high in the previous year, returned to their normal level.

Public Works.

20. The total expenditure on public works amounted to nearly 56 lakhs, of which 24½ lakhs were devoted to original works. The new Secretariat building at Nagpur was completed at a total cost of 9·7 lakhs, which exceeds the original estimate by nearly one-third of a lakh. Twenty-four lakhs were spent on communications, of which 9½ lakhs were spent on original works. The expenditure on public works was somewhat restricted, because the heavy expenditure on relief during 1907-08 had depleted the Provincial balance.

Irrigation.

21. For some years to come the Department will have heavy construction work in connection with the Tandula, Mahanadi, and Wainganga Canals. Twelve and a half lakhs were spent on protective and productive irrigation works and 4½ lakhs on minor works. In spite of the favourable nature of the monsoon a considerable area was irrigated, and cultivators have begun to realize that it is profitable to take water during breaks in the monsoon, even when there is no shortage in the total rainfall. The increase in the water-rates in Chhattisgarh did not prevent the cultivators from availing themselves of water from the irrigation tanks. The Departments of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Co-operative Credit are working together to demonstrate to the agriculturist the advantage of irrigation, to provide him with water, and to show him how to finance himself to the best advantage.

Revenue and Finance.

22. The land revenue collected in 1909-10 was larger than usual in consequence of the collections of arrears and the sale of cloth made by weavers on famine relief. The receipts for 1910-11 were not swollen by any such items. On the other hand, it was unnecessary to remit or suspend revenue or to incur expenditure on famine relief. Notwithstanding continued increase under Excise and larger receipts from Stamps and Registration, the Provincial revenue fell by 2½ lakhs, but the expenditure, mainly owing to economies in Civil works, was about 2½ lakhs less than the revenue. The closing balance of 25 lakhs consequently increased to 27½ lakhs.

Census.

23. The sixth enumeration of the Province took place in March 1911. In the decade following on the enumeration of 1901 the Berar districts have been added to the Province, the Sambalpur District and five Uriya-speaking Feudatory States have been handed over to Bengal, and five Hindi-speaking States have been transferred from Bengal to the Central Provinces. The population of the area now included in the Provinces has risen by 17·87 per cent, the increase being most marked in tracts where the aborigines are most strongly represented, such

as the Betul, Mandla, and Chanda Districts and the Feudatory States. During the decade the birth-rate was exceptionally high, the demand for labour greater than the supply, and the rise in wages greater than the rise in prices. A large increase in population, especially in the lower strata of the community, is the natural result of these conditions. Considering that plague was prevalent throughout the whole period and that the aggregate death roll was very large, while the decade included one year of scarcity which in one corner of the Province deepened into famine, the results of the Census are very striking.

Vital Statistics.

24. The birth-rate of 55·42 per mille was higher than it has been for the last 30 years. The death-rate of 44·88 per mille was also high, and for this there is a special reason. The recovery from the heavy mortality of the great famine of 1899-1900 has brought about a great increase in the percentage of children under 10 years of age, the mortality among whom is always much in excess of that among adults. Three-fifths of the mortality was among these children. Plague unfortunately shows no signs of dying out. The people are, however, now becoming reconciled to the preventive measures of inoculation and evacuation.

Emigration.

25. The number of emigrants was only 4,500, which is insignificant. With a home demand for labour in excess of the supply, no other result could have been expected in spite of the increase in the number of recruiting agencies.

Medical Relief and Vaccination.

26. The chief subject worthy of note is the high mortality among the inmates of the Nagpur Lunatic Asylum. A special enquiry was held into the causes of this. Ankylostomiasis was found to be very prevalent and remedial measures were taken. The attendance at dispensaries and the number of patients showed a satisfactory increase. There is some opposition to vaccination in the richer and more open tracts of the Province, but not among the aborigines.

Sanitation.

27. The Gorewara Reservoir at Nagpur has been opened since the close of the year. The preparation of several drainage schemes is in hand, and this work will be advanced by the non-recurring grant of two lakhs given by the Government of India in March 1911. During the year the Sanitary Board was reconstituted. A malarial survey of the Province, carried out by Major Kenrick, I. M. S., has yielded material on which well-considered schemes of malaria prevention may be based.

Education.

28. Satisfactory progress has been made on the whole in educational matters. Primary education expands as rapidly as the funds of local bodies allow, the principle that quality is to be preferred to mere quantity being kept in view. Steps have been taken to improve the prospects of female teachers in girls' schools by establishing a grade on Rs. 40 and increasing the number of graded posts. The Training School for male teachers at Jubbulpore has been raised to the status of a College. The policy which the Administration should follow in the matter of secondary education was fully considered. It was decided that a model High School with a Middle School Department should be established at each District Head-quarters and model Vernacular Middle Schools at Tahsili Head-quarters as funds permit; that fees should be moderately enhanced with due regard to the interests of scholars now on the rolls; that the number of scholarships should be substantially increased;

and that private enterprise should be encouraged by grants-in-aid, the code regulating which was revised. The addition of an Engineering School at the Victoria College of Science at Nagpur has been sanctioned by the Government of India since the close of the year. This will necessitate the closing of the Engineering Class at the Jubbulpore College, which has of late years failed to attract pupils. Plague interfered with Collegiate education, but in their working aspect the Colleges are doing well. The results of the Matriculation examination showed a rise in the percentage of passes, which, however, may only be due to a variation in the standard of the examination.

The principles on which assistance should be given by the Administration to European Schools are under consideration. Some special scholarships for the children of Volunteers have been founded in connection with the Jubilee of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles.

The Muhammadan Schools are not flourishing as much as could be wished, and means of improvement are being discussed.

PART II

CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

1. At pages 1 to 52 of the Report on the administration of the Central Provinces for 1901-02 and at pages 1 to 25 of the Report on the administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference. Certain portions of the information given are rendered obsolete owing to the transfer of the major portion of the Sambalpur District and Feudatory States of Patna, Sonpur, Rehrakhol, Kalahandi, and Bamra from the Central Provinces to Lower Bengal, and the transfer of the Chota-Nagpur States—Surguja, Udaipur, Jashpur, Korea, and Changbhakar—from Lower Bengal to the Central Provinces, with effect from the 16th October 1905, and by the division of the Raipur, Bilaspur, and remainder of the Sambalpur District into three districts on the formation of the Drug District on 1st January 1906. Other changes have been the reduction of the six districts of Berar to four with effect from the 1st September 1905, and the transfer of the Zamindaris of Ambagarh-Chouki, Panabaras, Aundhi, and Koracha from the Chanda to the Drug District on the 1st October 1907.

1—PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE, &c.

2—HISTORICAL SUMMARY

3—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION

[For an account of the "Form of Administration" in Berar, see paragraph 2 of Part II of the Administration Report of the Central Provinces for 1903-04.]

4—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES

5—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

6—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY

7—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS—TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

8—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

2. The Hon'ble Mr. R. H. CRADDOCK, C. S. I., I. C. S., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner during the whole of the year under report.

9—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

[Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1910.]

Changes in the Administration.

3. There were no changes in the Administration during the year. The most notable event in the history of the Chhattisgarh Feudatory States during the year 1910 was the rebellion of some of the aboriginal tribes in the Bastar State early in the year. This was suppressed with the help of troops and police from British India, the ringleaders were punished, and steps were taken to strengthen the administration of the State. A son and heir was born during the year to the Feudatory Chief of Kawardha, and a son was born to the heir-apparent of the Feudatory Chief of Surguja.

Rainfall and crops.

4. The monsoon of 1910 was very favourable to the States. The harvests were generally good: in Bastar and in the three western States, Khairagarh, Nandgaon, and Chhuikhadan, they were excellent. In Changbhakar the crops are reported to have been only fair, while in Jashpur they appear to have suffered some damage. Cotton cultivation was extended in Kawardha, Khairagarh, Nandgaon, and Chhuikhadan, but owing to excessive rain it fared badly in all four States.

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

Trade and prices.

5. The export trade was as brisk in all the States as it was in the preceding year, but the Ginning Factory of Kawardha suffered from the competition of Marwaris, who purchase cotton from the cultivators and give advances for cultivation. Prices in all the States ruled lower than in the previous year.

Condition of the people.

6. The year was one of prosperity. Cholera and fever were prevalent in a few of the States, but there was not much mortality among cattle. The birth and death rates were normal, and on the whole the period was a healthy one. There was little or no emigration.

Finance.

7. The financial condition of the States was satisfactory. Good progress is being made in the liquidation of the liabilities of indebted States.

Land Revenue.

8. Again a most satisfactory feature of the year was the ease with which the Land Revenue demand was realized in most States, and the insignificant number of cases in which resort to any form of coercive process was necessary.

Settlement.

9. Settlement operations were in progress during the year in the Kawardha State, where the whole of the Khalsa portion was attested, and in Udaipur. In Kanker the settlement was completed, the total rental being raised from Rs. 1,10,064 to Rs. 1,38,076; and in Bastar the settlement of the Jagdalpur Tahsil was begun.

Crime, Law and Justice.

10. Crime appears to have been as high as it was last year, but few of the offences were of a serious nature. There was an increase in the Bastar State, which was due to the rebellion already referred to. On the whole, the administration of justice, both Criminal and Civil, was carried out with care and expedition.

Jails.

11. The number of prisoners in Jail was more than in the previous year owing to the Bastar rebellion. The Jail administration in all States was well conducted. In the Udaipur State the Jail building was destroyed by fire, and while the prisoners were being removed to the Police havalat, 8 convicts escaped, of whom 3 were recaptured Weaving of various kinds and oil-pressing are the two principal forms of labour imposed.

Forests.

12. The income from forests was chiefly derived from the sale of timber, lac, and harra. There has been a rise and fall in forest receipts and expenditure in some of the States. In Surguja the old Kandan system of lac was re-established, as the system of levying a tax per tree was found impracticable. The staff was increased by the appointment of an expert Forest Darogah. In Sarangarh planting of some valuable trees was attempted during the year. There were two forest prosecutions involving 31 persons. The increase in receipts in the Korea State is attributed to the introduction of the Nakabandi system and to the departmental sale of State sleepers.

Excise.

13. Almost all the States have shown an increase in Excise income, chiefly due to competition for the opium and ganja vends.

Education.

14. In the Bastar State a large number of schools were burnt during the rebellion and the number of schools decreased in consequence. The posts of two Deputy Inspectors were abolished and the supervision of the Agency Inspector ceased. In the other States there was an increase in the number of schools opened, the number of pupils who attended them, and the expenditure on education In the Changbhakar State a private school at Bhagwanpur was closed during the year, and it is proposed to open a school at Gur. A proposal to appoint a European Agency Inspector of Schools for the States is under consideration.

Rajkumar College.

15. The Rajkumar College in Raipur has made steady progress during the year. The health and conduct of the boys have been excellent. Proposals for the appointment of an officer of the Indian Educational Service as Principal of that College are under consideration.

Public Works Department.

16. Of the six States which were in charge of the Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh States Division, two, *viz.*, Sarangarh and Kawardha, were relinquished on the 31st December 1910. Considerable sums were spent on improvements by the States.

10—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

The season.

17. The early monsoon of 1910-11 was well distributed and sufficient for agricultural requirements, but later on rainfall was continuous and heavy, and some damage was done to kharif crops causing a slight decrease in the area under kharif. The same cause was beneficial to the rabi crops, the cultivation of which extended appreciably both in the Central Provinces and to a lesser extent in Berar. The outturn was generally good and prices were lower than in the previous year except in the case of cotton, til and linseed, the prices of which were affected by the keen external demand. Imports decreased from the abnormal figures of the preceding year, but exports increased considerably. The short outturn of the cotton crop had an adverse effect on the manufactures of the Province. Crime has steadily declined since the scarcity of 1908. The year was a very unhealthy one. It was remarkable for high death-rate and for the prevalence of epidemic disease. Plague prevailed throughout the Province. Taken as a whole the Provinces made steady progress during the year.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

REALIZATION OF REVENUE

I—REALIZATION OF REVENUE

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th September 1910 and of Berar for the year 1909-10.]

The Central Provinces.

18. The total malguzari demand of land revenue amounted to Rs. 87,45,741, showing a gross increase of Rs. 1,21,476 and a net increase of over a lakh. A rise of Rs. 1,09,515 was due to revision of assessment in 5 districts. With the exception of a few insignificant amounts, all unsuspended arrears were collected, while a sum of Rs. 5,54,909 out of the suspended revenue of Rs. 6,23,812 was paid in. Miscellaneous land revenue was also collected almost in full with the exception of the arrears on account of royalty due from the Mohpani Colliery, amounting to Rs. 34,694, which are still outstanding pending the orders of the Government of India.

Berar.

19. The total demand in Berar on account of land revenue proper, including cesses, was Rs 89,92,749, or Rs. 42,764 more than in the previous year. The increase was mainly due to the levy of the full revised rates of assessment in the Pusad taluq and also in 40 villages in the Balapur taluq where progressive assessments had not been enforced owing to a mistake. Of the total demand 99·9 per cent was collected, leaving a small balance of Rs. 3,718 which was subsequently recovered.

Coercive processes.

20. In the Central Provinces the number of notices of demand issued remained almost the same as in the previous year, while that of the severer forms of coercive processes increased by 9 per cent. Of the total collections of land revenue and cesses, arrears and current, amounting to over 101 lakhs, 91 per cent was collected without resort to coercive measures. Three defaulters were imprisoned in the Civil Jail, and though attachment of property was effected in 686 cases out of 31,026 mahals, in only 24 cases was moveable property brought to sale. Three mahals were put under temporary attachment and immoveable property was sold only in one instance.

Berar.

21. In Berar the number of coercive processes issued fell from 12,833 to 3,746. The exceptional prosperity of the year partly conduced to this result, but it was mainly due to instructions issued by which indiscriminate resort to coercive processes was deprecated. Attachment warrants were issued against the personal property of defaulters in 1,289 cases and against immoveable property in 7 cases In no case was immoveable property sold. From these figures it is clear that the land revenue was realized without difficulty.

Government loans, Central Provinces.

22. The Government Loan Account of the Central Provinces (principal) is shown in the following statement. The figures are for the financial year ending the 31st March 1911 :—

	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.		Under the Land Improvement Loans Act.	
	With interest.	Without interest.	With interest.	Without interest.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Outstanding at the commencement of the year, *i. e.*, on the 1st April 1910.	6,96,619 4 3	613 8 0	18,71,598 10 11	
Remitted during the year 1910-11 ...	640 4 5	...	7,371 9 9	
Collected do. do. ...	5,62,792 3 11	276 15 3	4,30,275 13 5	
Advanced do. do. ...	2,41,848 10 8	...	1,08,536 8 5	
Outstanding at the close of the year, *i. e.*, on the 31st March 1911.	3,75,035 6 7	336 8 9	15,42,487 12 2	

REALIZATION OF REVENUE

The year being one of very general prosperity the advances under the Agriculturists' and Land Improvement Loans Acts made during the year amounted to only 3·60 lakhs as against 9¾ lakhs in the previous year. The balance outstanding under the Land Improvement Loans Act at the beginning of the year was still heavy, but the recoveries on account of principal reached the respectable figure of 92 per cent of the demand; while under the Agriculturists' Loans Act the percentage of 89 compared favourably enough with the figures of rental collections. Collections were particularly good in the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions, but large balances remained in Wardha, Nagpur, Balaghat, Nimar and Betul. On the whole the results were satisfactory.

In Berar the amounts allotted for loans to agriculturists were Rs. 64,695 under the Land Improvement Loans Act and Rs. 15,305 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, and the sums actually disbursed amounted to Rs. 62,975 (97 per cent) and Rs. 14,108 (92 per cent), respectively. These allotments were very much smaller than in the preceding year and it is doubtful whether a steady demand for these loans can be created apart from the special demand in poor years. The demand due for collection as principal and interest was Rs. 1,54,000, but Rs. 1,60,394 were collected, Rs. 485 suspended, Rs. 215 remitted, and Rs. 920 remained overdue. The collections were thus eminently satisfactory.

2—SURVEYS

SURVEYS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1910, and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1910.]

23. The local traverse Survey party formed in 1908 continued to work in 7 districts, including the Taluq of Melghat of the Amraoti District in Berar, and in all 247 villages were traversed. The work was generally found to be satisfactory. The smallness of the outturn was due to the country under traverse being difficult and the work scattered.

3—SETTLEMENT

SETTLEMENT

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1910, and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1910.]

24. The orders of the Government of India on the inception of Settlement operations in the old Drug Tahsil Khalsa and the Sanjari Pargana in the Drug District, as well as those on the Bemetara Tahsil Report of the Drug District and the Janjgir Tahsil Report of the Bilaspur District, were received during the year. The final Report on the Settlement of the Chanda District was submitted to the Local Administration in September 1910. It was also decided to take up the revision of Settlement in Nimar and Nagpur. The term of Settlement has been extended in the Betul District up to 1916, and a period of 20 years was sanctioned as the normal term of Settlement for the districts in the Chhattisgarh Division. One marked feature of the year was the quickening up of Settlement operations. These were continued in the districts mentioned below.

Mandla.—Only 276 villages remained over for Settlement at the beginning of the year, and in these announcement was effected during the year. The revised rents and revenue have been cheerfully accepted by the tenants and malguzars. Rent certificates were distributed to tenants of 17 block and leased villages, and kabuliyats were taken from them, and in addi ion from the patels of block and leased villages which have been declared ryotwari. The malguzars of the 52 waste land purchase villages signed the wajib-ul-arz and kabuliyats, but subsequently appealed to the Administration for cancellation of the wajib-ul-arz proposed by the Settlement Officer. The orders of the Local Government, which were received during the year, were to the effect that these malguzars are liable to subscribe to the wajib-ul-arz. In accordance with the Chief Commissioner's orders on the proposals for the redistribution of certain areas in ryotwari villages, 44 whole villages and parts of 7 villages were transferred to the Forest Department. Sanction to the excision and restoration cases of the Dindori Tahsil was also received and some progress was effected in the work. About 250 cases of discrepancies of forest boundaries remained over for disposal. The total expenditure of the year was Rs. 26,524.

Jubbulpore.—Operations in the Jubbulpore and Sihora Tahsils were somewhat hampered by plague, and special arrangements had to be made to carry on the office work. Unfortunately some of the best of the staff succumbed to the disease. The field work, however, was not interrupted. The whole of the map correction and field work has been completed as well as the assessment of the Murwara and Sihora Tahsils. The initial delay caused by crop failure in 1907-08 has now been more than ma e good. With the exception of the announcement of the Murwara Tahsil and the completion of the rent-rates and assessments for the Sihora Tahsil, operations have been confined to the Jubbulpore and Patan Tahsils. In both of these tahsils map correction and attestation have been completed and the Preliminary Report submitted. In the Patan Tahsil rent-rates have been completed, and in Jubbulpore Tahsil 230 villages remain to be done. Inspection has not been neglected, as Inspectors attested 770 villages of the latter tahsil. The Party Officers inspected 800 villages and the Settlement Officer inspected and passed 757 villages, while the Assistant Settlement Officers who were specially empowered by the Settlement Officer for the purpose, finished 333 villages. During the year in all 14 reports were received from the Settlement Officer for orders, *viz.*, Rent-rate Reports for 9 groups, including 1,131 villages, assessment proposals in respect of 4 groups, and the Preliminary Report of the Jubbulpore Tahsil (including Patan Tahsil), and the orders of the Chief Commissioner were passed on 4 Rent-rate and 5 Assessment Reports and on the Preliminary Report of the Jubbulpore Tahsil. The total cost of the operations in the year amounted to Rs. 83,810.

Damoh.—Attestation was made in the whole of the Hatta Tahsil and 263 villages of the Damoh Tahsil. Inspectors attested 426, and Party Officers passed 400, and the Settlement Officer himself inspected 405 villages. Rent-rate Reports were received and sanctioned for 383 villages of the Hatta Tahsil. The assessment proposals of 2 groups out of the 5 groups submitted were sanctioned. The Preliminary Report for the Damoh Tahsil and the wajib-ul-arz for the district have also been received. The expenditure was Rs. 71,011.

Wardha.—Good progress was made in spite of a bad riding accident to the Settlement Officer. The Settlement of the Hinganghat Tahsil and of the greater portion of the Wardha Tahsil was completed. Rent-rate Reports of 4 groups of the Hinganghat Tahsil and seven groups of the Wardha Tahsil were received. Assessment Reports were submitted for 3 groups of the latter tahsil and 4 groups of the former tahsil, and orders have been passed on all except one. The total cost of the operations was Rs. 63,490.

Raipur and Drug.—Announcement of revised revenue was made in 1,371 villages in all the 4 Tahsils of the Raipur District, leaving only 293 villages for completion next year. Attestation was carried out in 517 villages of the Drug Tahsil, and the Settlement Officer inspected 40 villages of the Bemetara Tahsil which were left over in the last year. During the year Bemetara and Drug Tahsils have been rent-rated, and assessments were completed in the Mahasamund, Raipur, and Bemetara Tahsils, and in six ryotwari villages. The total expenditure on the operations in the two districts was Rs. 78,658.

Bilaspur Khalsa.—Inspectors and Party Officers finished the attestation work in 710 villages in the Janjgir Tahsil, while 511 villages were inspected by the Settlement Officer. Rent-rate Reports for 6 groups covering 512 villages and Assessment Reports of 6 groups for 519 villages, as well as the Preliminary Report of the Janjgir Tahsil, were received during the year, and orders were issued on all these, except the Assessment Reports of 3 groups. Revised rents and revenue were announced in 706 villages of the Mungeli Tahsil. The year's expenditure was Rs. 97,211.

Bilaspur Zamindaris.—During the year 3 villages were surveyed, 80 attested, and 98 passed and inspected by the Assistant Settlement Officers. Announcement was completed for 725 villages in 5 different Zamindaris. Rent-rate and Assessment Reports were received for 246 and 1,086 villages respectively, and the assessment proposals of the remaining 244 villages in 3 Zamindaris were sent up very shortly after the close of the revenue year. Revised certificates

were issued to the old and new protected Thekadars of five Zamindaris, and proposals for a grant of protected status to the deserving lessees and gaontias of the remaining 5 Zamindaris have also been submitted. Settlement of disputed Zamindari boundaries was effected in 233 out of 239 cases. The total cost of the year's operations amounted to Rs. 51,885.

Balaghat (Ryotwari).—Rent-rate proposals for 254 villages in 5 groups were received and sanctioned, and the revised revenue was fixed and announced. The assessment has been accepted by the people without demur. Orders of the Chief Commissioner on the question of the terms on which ryotwari villages are held by Thekadars and Patels were received and communicated. Proposals for alteration of the size of Kotwars' Circles and their remuneration have also been submitted for orders. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 12,221.

Saugor.—In accordance with the orders of the Government of India reimposition of abated rents and revenue was effected in 702 villages and only 142, which have been left over for examination, were found to be still in a deteriorated condition. The net result of the operations was to raise the abated revenue from Rs. 1,46,101 to Rs. 2,12,274, or by Rs. 66,173, with a corresponding increase in the assets of Rs. 55,109. The report on the inception of Settlement operations has been submitted for orders. Maps were corrected for 221 villages out of a total of 688, leaving 467 for the next season. No discrepancies were found in the Settlement boundaries.

Damoh, Nagpur, and Nimar.—Map correction work was continued in these districts, and maps of 570, 164, and 158 villages respectively have been rectified, leaving 493 villages in Nagpur and 732 in Nimar for completion. The work in Damoh is now complete. The hilly nature of the country and serious discrepancies in the boundaries caused some delay in the work.

Amraoti.—Rent-rate Reports for 93 villages of the Melghat Ta'luq were received from the Settlement Officer. A report has also been submitted concerning the postponement of Settlement operations in this Taluq.

4—LAND RECORDS

LAND RECORDS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1910, and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1910.]

Establishment.

25. The constitution and inclusion of new ryotwari villages in the Nimar District involved an increase of 25 Patwaris and one Revenue Inspector. The revision of the Land Record arrangements of the Eastern Zamindaris in the Raipur District involved the addition of two Revenue Inspectors and 29 Patwaris, and also some improvement to the pay of Patwaris. In view of the high cost of living prevailing in the Nagpur and Wardha Districts, the minimum pay of Patwaris in those districts was raised to Rs. 12 per mensem, and a number of good conduct allowances were sanctioned. The introduction of some of these measures elsewhere has, however, been postponed until the next year. In Berar also measures are being taken to improve the prospects of the Land Record Establishment.

Boundary marks.

26. Village boundary marks were generally maintained in good condition. In Jubbulpore, though the traverse marks were in much improved condition, they required proper and constant attention, as the people have not yet sufficiently realised their responsibility. Boundary marks in ryotwari survey numbers were in fair condition, except in Chanda and Raipur. The adoption of the new rules in Berar was found to have led to great improvement.

Utilization of Land Records.

27. Circle Note Books were up to date in all districts, except Damoh, Raipur, Wardha, Drug, Bilaspur, and the Baihar Tahsil of Balaghat, where Settlement operations caused delay, and in the Pusad Taluq of the Yeotmal District. Village Note Books were written up to date, except in Seoni, Betul, and Chanda. In Nimar and Saugor map correction, and in Damoh, Bilaspur, and the Baihar Tahsil of Balaghat Settlement operations, interfered with the work.

Testing of village papers.

28. The checking of village papers by Revenue Inspectors, Superintendents, and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records was everywhere

LAND RECORDS

satisfactory. Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants checked sufficient entries, but neglect has been shown by individual Tahsildars and their Naibs, and steps have been taken to impress on those officials the sense of their responsibility. The percentage of inaccuracies detected in Khasras and Jamabandis declined. The condition of village maps was satisfactory, but the inception of map correction work prior to re-settlement in Nagpur and Nimar necessitated the renewal of a large number of traces, while a few had to be renewed in Betul, Seoni, and Wardha. In Berar the outturn of inspection work was better, but there is still room for improvement, especially in Yeotmal.

Conduct of the Land Record Staff.

29 The number of Patwaris who had official permission to reside outside their circles decreased from 180 to 170, and the number residing outside their circles without permission stood at 335 as against 331 last year. These were nearly all new men, and necessary action has been taken to enforce permanent residence. Although the statistics of the disciplinary measures adopted against Patwaris in the year show a rise in the number of punishments, their conduct was on the whole satisfactory. Revenue Inspectors have been well spoken of by Deputy Commissioners, and some of the Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records were specially mentioned for good work.

WASTE LAND

5—WASTE LAND

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th September 1910 and on the Revenue Administration of Berar for the year ending the 31st July 1910.]

30. The only districts in the Central Provinces in which waste lands are available for allotment to any large extent are Mandla, Nimar, Chanda, and Balaghat. The total area available for allotment at the commencement of the year was 397,873 acres, of which 71,778 acres were allotted during the year, leaving a balance, after allowing for relinquishment, of 394,415 acres. The area allotted in Mandla, Nimar, and Chanda was a little more than the area relinquished, while in Balaghat the contrary was the case.

In Berar the area available for allotment in *khalsa* villages amounted to 49,185 acres, of which 9,478 acres were allotted during the year. This area consists for the most part of stony land hardly fit for cultivation, and further allotment had been checked by the reclassification of the C Class forest areas, under which much of it will be transferred to grazing areas.

GOVERNMENT ESTATES

6—GOVERNMENT ESTATES

31. There are no Government Estates in the Central Provinces and Berar.

WARDS' ESTATES.

7—WARDS' ESTATES

[Report on the management by Government of Private Estates for the year ending the 30th September 1910.]

The Central Provinces.

32. There were 63 estates under management throughout the year; they covered an area of 7,109 square miles, or 9 per cent of the Province. In the collection of rents the Court of Wards was as fully successful as the average resident landlord and the management of forests was more efficient.

Income.

33. The total gross income of the year amounted to Rs. 11,64,455, 55 per cent consisting of rents. The total rental collections aggregated Rs. 6,43,712, or 104 per cent on the current demand, a result which showed a satisfactory state of the arrear account. Next to rents, forests constituted the principal source of income, especially in Zamindari estates. During the year the total revenue from forests stood at Rs. 2,71,239. The figures of the previous year, Rs. 2,91,327, were inflated by large receipts from unforeseen circumstances; and if this fact is taken into consideration, it appears that the closer supervision exercised has yielded a satisfactory result.

Expenditure.

34. The total gross expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 8,84,251, of which Rs. 3,02,208, or 34 per cent of the total sum, was on account of land revenue and cesses. The cost of management amounted to 16 per cent of the gross income as compared with 18 per cent in the previous year, and is largest in those estates which have large areas of forests to be supervised.

WARDS' ESTATES

In nearly all the solvent estates takavi loans in cash or grain were given out to the tenants, and the expenditure under this head increased by over Rs. 4,000.

Improvements.

35. The total amount expended on "Estate improvements" was Rs. 1,11,358 as compared with Rs. 98,245 in the previous year, and in all, except those estates whose indebtedness prevented any surplus being devoted to this object, some progress was made. In the Jagirs of the Chhindwara District, Rs. 1,097 were expended on a much needed improvement in communications. In the Bijagarh Estate of the Balaghat District a tank was completed, and in the large Zamindari of Ahiri roads were improved and wells repaired. In the Drug District houses were built for the Zamindars of the estates under management at head-quarters, and in the Zamindaris of Raipur besides tanks and road work, granaries and other buildings were constructed. There is still, however, too great tendency to invest balances in Government papers, and there are some estates without liabilities in which very little appears to be done in the matter of improvements.

Debt.

36. Good progress was made in liquidating debts. Rupees 1,23,249 were devoted to this purpose out of the current income. The additions to indebtedness amounted to Rs. 1,08,852, and two villages of the Damjipura Estate in the Betul District were sold to liquidate the debt due to the Raja of Makrai. The debts due at the time of assumption of management have been reduced by about one-half. With good years there should be no difficulty in saving all the estates, except three in the Chhattisgarh Division which are so heavily involved that repayment is almost impossible.

General.

37. The cultivation of the home-farm still leaves much to be desired. It is true that the Court of Wards cannot hope to compete with the resident farmer landlord, but it ought to compare not unfavourably with the absentee malguzar. The chief difficulty is to obtain men with the requisite knowledge of agriculture for the post of manager. There are no men to spare in the Provincial Agricultural Department, but that Department has arranged to help by inspection, by the training of kamdars and by the institution of a short course of instruction for Managers at the Raipur Farm. The grant of special bonus to the most successful farm agents is a great incentive to honesty, and this and the stimulation of healthy rivalry between kamdars in charge of different farms are both methods which promise success. The conduct of the wards and the educational progress of those under instruction was on the whole satisfactory, though there were a few wards who failed to profit by the education offered to them at school, or by the efforts to make them proficient in the management of their affairs.

8—REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1910, and of Berar for the year ending the 31st July 1910.]

General conditions.

38 The monsoon of 1909 was characterized by normal and well-distributed rain during June and July, and though the rainfall was below the normal during the month of August, the deficiency was only marked in the rice districts of Bhandara, Raipur and Bilaspur. The rainfall in September was everywhere below the normal, the defect being most marked in Bhandara and Bilaspur. Little or no rain fell during October and November, but the rainfall during December and the first week of January was unusually heavy. The remainder of the cold weather was unusually dry, and except for a severe storm in parts of Nagpur and Bhandara, there was little hail. The rainfall, though light, was unusually well distributed, and except in the rice districts of Bhandara and the Chhattisgarh Division, where the broadcast rice suffered from want of moisture, the kharif crops were generally above the normal, while even in those districts transplanted rice did fairly well. The breaks during the monsoon afforded opportunity for the careful preparation of land for the rabi crops, and the heavy rains at Christmas materially improved the prospects.

In Berar the monsoon rainfall, though slightly below the average, was well distributed and timely breaks were admirably suited to Agricultural operations. The magnificent prospects of a bumper kharif harvest were slightly damaged by the early withdrawal of the monsoon, whilst the unusually heavy rain accompanied by hail in the middle of December also caused some loss to the late pickings of cotton and to the juar stocks, although it benefited the

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES

young rabi crops. The year was on the whole a very prosperous one, both for the Central Provinces and Berar. In the Central Provinces bumper rabi crops were harvested in almost every district, the outturn of wheat varying from 95 to 150 per cent. Making an allowance for the transfer of 14,969 acres in the lower taluqs of Sironcha to Madras, the occupied area rose from 21,486,818 acres in 1908-09 to 21,609,329 acres in 1909-10, the rise being most marked in the districts of Betul, Chhindwara, Chanda, Bilaspur and Raipur, in all of which the area available for cultivation is still very large. In Berar the cropped area showed a small decrease of 2,765 acres. The character of the cropping did not undergo any very marked change. The boom in cotton expanded rather than contracted owing to the high prices of that commodity.

Indications are not wanting that the people in general are beginning to appreciate to a greater degree the efforts of Government for the improvement of their condition. The opposition to measures directed to allay the ravages of plague has broken down in the North and South of the Provinces, and the popularity of new scientific methods of treating cholera was conspicuously exemplified in Bilaspur. All reports testify to the excellent work done by the Department of Agriculture and to its growing popularity. The demand for improved machinery and improved seed is developing steadily, and an example of the readiness of the people to profit by instruction is to be found in their willingness to adopt transplantation of rice. The use of the iron plough is steadily increasing, and *buri* cotton has been tried on a considerable scale. Co-operative credit has made great strides in the Nagpur Division; in Berar, although the heavy indebtedness of the ryots has made it difficult to raise sufficient funds to give the movement a fair chance, the time, owing to two prosperous years, now seems opportune for extending co-operative credit with the best possible chances of success.

Tenants. 39. The total rental demand increased from Rs. 1,26,25,359 to Rs. 1,27,60,602. Rental collections were everywhere good, the total collections on account of the demand for both the current and previous years exceeding the current demand by about 6 per cent. The average area held by tenants of each class continued to fall slowly, a fact which should lead to closer cultivation. In the Drug district the area held by occupancy tenants in Zamindaris fell from 137,647 acres in 1908-09 to 129,348 acres in 1909-10 owing to an order of the Commissioner of Settlements that in the Zamindaris transferred from Chanda to Drug all new tenants were to be considered to acquire only ordinary rights under Section 62 of the Central Provinces Tenancy Act, and that the special provisions of Section 44 of the Act no longer applied to these areas.

Landlords. 40. Private sales of land decreased considerably, but the number of sales by order of Court showed a disproportionate increase. As noticed in the previous year transfer of land, as a manifestation of agricultural distress, is noticeable not so much during the years of actual calamity but rather during those which follow. Except in Wardha, where over half the transfers were in favour of the money-lending classes, the land remained mostly in the hands of agriculturists. The average for the Provinces of the consideration fetched at private sales was 27 times the land revenue, prices being better than in either of the two previous years, for which the same factor was 23 and 24 respectively.

The area held as *sir* increased in all districts under settlement, except Raipur and Drug, but fell in those districts where settlement operations were not in progress owing to the creation of occupancy rights on transfers by proprietors. The total area held as home-farm by malguzars rose in all districts.

Landlords and tenants. 41. The suits and applications between landlord and tenant, which came before Courts and Revenue Officers, were exceedingly few, numbering well under 17,000 on a tenantry exceeding a million and a half, which is a clear indication of the fact that the relations between the two classes were satisfactory.

CHAPTER III

PROTECTION

1—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

42. The Legislative Authority for the Central Provinces is the Council of the Governor-General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations. For Berar, legislation is effected by Notifications issued by the Governor-General in Council, under the power conferred on him by the Indian (Foreign Jurisdiction) Order in Council, 1902.

2—COURSE OF LEGISLATION

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

43. No Act specially affecting the Central Provinces was passed by the Imperial Legislature during the year. The following Acts were made applicable to Berar by Notifications published in the *Gazette of India*, namely :—

The Indian Mines Act, VIII of 1901 ;
The Village Sanitation Act, IX of 1902 ;
The Indian Press Act, I of 1910 ;
The Indian Penal Code Amendment Act III of 1910 ; and
The Indian Census Act, XVI of 1910.

The Berar Courts Law, 1905, was also amended by the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

3—POLICE

POLICE

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1910, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Crime, General.

44. The chief feature of the Police administration of the year was the marked decrease in the number of cognizable cases which has fallen from 30,496 to 24,850. Other important features are the continued improvement in the reporting and registration of crime, the activity of the Berar police in applying the preventive provisions of the law against habitual criminals, their success in dealing with dacoities, and the decline of seditious agitation. The agricultural population enjoyed an exceptionally favourable year, while the labouring classes found ample employment in the fields and on railway and irrigation works. The real decrease in minor offences against property would have been more marked were it not that it was somewhat obscured by the improvement in the registration of crime. On the other hand the Province has been fortunate in escaping increased attention from professionals who have been discouraged by the vigorous action of the police of these Provinces and the Durbars of large States on the borders. The reports show that the police of His Highness the Nizam's territories on the south and of Indore, Bhopal, and Gwalior on the west and north have readily co-operated with the local police in dealing with organized bands of criminals. It was also found that the Zamindars of the Chhattisgarh Division were taking upon themselves the disposal of cognizable cases brought to their notice without forwarding the reports to the police, but this objectionable practice will in future be stopped.

Offences against the State, the person, and property.

45. The total number of offences against the State fell from 388 to 285. Serious offences against the person fell from 2,044 to 1,867. Dacoities fell from 125 to 63. The number of cases of serious mischief of all kinds has decreased. The total amount of property stolen decreased from Rs. 4,55,000 to Rs. 4,23,000, out of which property worth Rs. 2,24,043 was recovered. There were 29 cases of cattle-poisoning against 28 in the previous year. But police information as to the quantity of arsenic imported into the Chhattisgarh Division suggests that cattle-poisoning is more prevalent than the figures denote. Proposals have been made to the Government of India for the application of the Poisons Act in that Division, and, if accepted, they will strengthen the hands of the local authorities in dealing with this form of crime.

POLICE

Police action.

46. Investigations are still made more freely in the Berar districts than in the rest of the Provinces for the reason that crime in those districts is generally of a more serious nature than elsewhere. The percentage of investigations in house-breaking has risen from 52 in 1909 to 59 in 1910 and thefts from 42 in 1909 to 46 in 1910. Special attention is drawn to the orders contained in the revised Police Manual that the merits of investigating officers are not to be judged by the statistical results of the cases sent up by them. Judgment of the work of a Station-house Officer by the percentage of convictions obtained is bound to be most fallacious. Rewards or promotions based on mere statistical tests necessarily lead to most evil consequences and should be discountenanced. Station Officers often strive to secure the conviction of somebody rightly or wrongly, so as to improve their percentages. Such a practice leads on the one hand to the burking of reports regarding offences in which success is impossible or very dubious, and on the other hand to the needless investigation of petty crimes for the sake of returns. The real and only way of judging of the merits of the work done at Station-houses during a given period is an examination of the case diaries of every offence investigated, which will show clearly whether the work done was thorough or superficial, intelligent or lacking in sense of discrimination. More analysis and criticism of individual cases should be made in inspection notes of District Superintendents. It is satisfactory to note that there were no cases of police torture during the year. A complaint was lodged against the Garhakota police in Saugor by the Mukaddam and Kotwar of Gourjhamar. The case was, however, found to be entirely false, having been got up by the malguzar, a seditiously inclined Bania.

Rural and Punitive Police.

47. There are no rural police in these Provinces, but the police are using their best endeavours to enlist the aid of village headmen and villagers in the reporting of crime, and there is evidence that crime is more accurately as well as more fully reported.

Establishment.

48. Most of the reforms advocated by the Police Commission have now been carried out. The sanctioned strength of Inspectors was increased by 13 appointments, *i. e.*, from 132 to 145. Twelve of the additional Inspectors were given to the Provincial Police and one to the Railway Police. The number of Sub-Inspectors was increased from 588 to 643, of whom 622 were attached to the Provincial Police and 21 to the Railway Police. The total cost of the Provincial Police force fell from Rs. 29,35,259 to Rs. 28,77,562. Re-allocation schemes are now being gradually introduced, and they tend to improve the work of the police, and to increase the confidence of the people and Magistrates in their investigations. It has been noticed that young police constables, chafing under the effects of unaccustomed discipline at the outset of their career, frequently resign their appointments. To prevent such thoughtless and illconsidered resignations, a system of three-year agreements, similar to that in force in Bengal, has been sanctioned, and its working is being watched with care. The health of the force has not been so good as in the previous year, deaths numbering 155 against 113.

Miscellaneous.

49. The work of the Finger-Print Bureau increased steadily. Free quarters are being provided for the lower ranks of the police, both in the Central Provinces and Berar. It is satisfactory to find that punishments have been somewhat less than in the previous year. Three officers and 122 men were dismissed against 4 officers and 176 men in the previous year.

A record of the year's work would be incomplete without some mention of the Bastar expedition. A police force, consisting of special armed reserves, was sent from six districts at very short notice. The force remained at Bastar from February until the middle of May, and had much arduous and trying work to do in the hottest season of the year, and the conduct of the officers and men earned the hearty commendation of the Political Agent.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

4—CRIMINAL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Criminal) of the Central Provinces for the year 1910, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Crime.

50. The total number of offences reported fell from 39,989 to 36,480 and that of cases returned as true from 31,462 to 29,065. The continued prosperity

of 1910 caused a further decrease in offences against property, theft cases numbering only 3,111 against 3,822 in the previous year. Cases of defamation increased and a marked rise occurred in the number of offences affecting the public health, decency and morals and in cases of contempt of the lawful authority of public servants. The number of offences affecting life fell from 505 to 448. The one offence against the State in 1910 occurred in the Yeotmal District: two persons, one of whom was an assistant master in a District Board School, had taught some school boys verses of a seditious nature, and, on conviction under Section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code, were sentenced each to two years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200. There has again been a substantial decrease in the number of offences under Special and Local Laws. The total number of Municipal offences reported shows an increase of 724 compared with the preceding year, of which Nagpur accounts for 447: this increase was due in great measure to the fact that it was not necessary to evacuate Nagpur City on account of plague during 1910. The total number of cases under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act has been returned as 173 against 368 in the previous year, but it is reported that complete statistics do not seem to have been given.

Courts of original jurisdiction.

51. The strength of the Magistracy fell from 566 to 553, the decrease being mainly among 3rd Class Magistrates. In order to relieve the District Magistrates of certain districts from the necessity of trying original criminal cases except under special circumstances, and at the same time to avoid increasing the work of Sessions Judges by requiring them to try cases which can be adequately dealt with by Magistrates, a number of selected 1st Class Magistrates have been empowered under Section 30 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The percentages of cases disposed of by Magistrates of the various classes were the same as in 1909, *viz.*, 7 per cent by District Magistrates, 67·4 per cent by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, and 31·9 per cent by Honorary Magistrates. The number of cases tried summarily rose from 2,734 to 2,846. The question of investing certain selected Benches of Honorary Magistrates with summary powers under Section 261 of the Criminal Procedure Code is under consideration. The number of persons released on probation of good conduct under Section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code fell from 625 in 1909 to 594 in 1910, the decrease being due to the fall in the number of offences against property.

The despatch of business.

52. The number of cases disposed of during the year was 27,250 compared with 30,957 in 1909, and the average duration in all Courts fell from 18·1 to 17·2 days. The average duration of police cases was the same as in the previous year in the Central Provinces, *viz.*, 18·6 days, but in Berar the figure rose from 13·1 to 15·8 days. Complaint cases showed an improvement, the average duration being 16·6 days against 18·0 in 1909. In Berar, the figure fell from 8 days to 7·5 days, due to the large number of cases under the Berar Municipal Law, the number of which considerably exceeded the total number of cases under the Central Provinces Municipal Act in the Central Provinces; for these a single hearing usually sufficed.

Sessions Courts.

53. The average duration of Sessions cases rose from 52·4 to 58·8 days, the total number of cases disposed of being 194 in the Central Provinces and 90 in Berar. The percentage of convictions in Sessions cases decreased in the Nagpur Division from 72·7 to 69·6, in the Jubbulpore Division from 82·3 to 57·1, and in East Berar from 68·3 to 36·0. The fall in the Jubbulpore Division is mainly due to the acquittal of all the 16 accused persons in a dacoity case in Saugor, while that in East Berar is due to the acquittal of 43 out of 46 persons in 12 cases.

Appellate and Revisional Jurisdiction.

54. The number of appeals preferred by convicted persons to the Judicial Commissioner's Court was 357 against 532 in the previous year, the decrease being accounted for by the fall in the number of persons convicted by Sessions Courts. Since the amendment of the Central Provinces Courts Act, 1904, by Act No. XI of 1910, Benches of two Judges have been sitting to hear appeals from persons sentenced to death and for the confirmation of death sentences. The number of appeals before Sessions Courts fell from 2,189 to 1,937, and of those before District Magistrates and other Magistrates empowered to hear appeals from 3,519 to 2,906. The average duration of appeals in

Sessions Courts fell from 23·8 to 19·5 days. The percentage of the cases in which the sentence of the lower Court was not altered was 71·6 and 5·7 for Sessions Courts and Magistrates' Courts, respectively, against 73·5 and 6·5 in the previous year. The appeals of 1,885 persons were dismissed summarily in 1910 against 2,138 in 1909. Appeals by the Local Government against the acquittals of 8 persons were disposed of during the year: 4 of the acquittals were reversed and the accused convicted, and the remaining 4 appeals were dismissed.

Punishment. 55. Out of 42 death-sentences coming before the Judicial Commissioner's Court, 33 were confirmed and 9 were reduced to transportation for life. The number of short sentences of imprisonment showed a further fall in the year under report from 134 to 73. The number of previously convicted persons again convicted also fell from 982 to 749. The number of sentences of whipping dropped from 1,167 to 619, the decrease being partly accounted for by the smaller number of offences against property. During the year 9 juveniles were sentenced to imprisonment against 15 in the preceding year. The number of persons sentenced to fine was 13,371 against 14,426, while the total amount of fines imposed fell from Rs. 1,82,414 to Rs. 1,70,184, the percentage of realizations being 92·4 against 91·2. The amount struck off as unrealizable was Rs. 9,908 against Rs. 8,290.

PRISONS — 5—PRISONS

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces for the year 1910, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

General. 56. The number of Jails, *viz.*, 22, remained unaltered. Adolescent prisoners in the north of the Province are confined in the Narsinghpur Jail. Arrangements have been made at the Nagpur Central Jail to provide separate accommodation for adolescent prisoners from the south of the Province.

Jail population. 57. The daily average of Jail population decreased from 3,833 to 3,661, excluding under-trial and civil prisoners. This fall is due to prosperity and easier prices. The number of reconvicted prisoners also fell from 1,106 to 802. There has also been a substantial decrease in the number of juveniles sentenced to imprisonment.

Jail discipline. 58. There were five escapes during the year against three in 1909. In four of the cases the convicts were rearrested. 18,000 punishments were inflicted among 4,000 prisoners, a large number of these punishments being mere warnings, while in particular Jails the number of punishments was swelled by a few hardened criminals. The number of floggings decreased from 60 to 52. Though there was a moderate increase in minor punishments, the major punishments showed a substantial decrease. Discipline was, on the whole, satisfactory. The fall in the number of reconvicted prisoners referred to above is partly due to the success in previous years attained by the police against habitual criminals, and in part to the tightening up of tasks and discipline in the Jails.

Health. 59. The vital statistics were not as good as in 1909. There was a rise in the number of sick, and deaths were more than double. Sickness and mortality among the numerous prisoners sentenced for offences connected with the rising in the Bastar State were mainly responsible for this bad record. The Raipur Central Jail has had a bad reputation for dysentery for some years, and the Government of India have just sanctioned the appointment of Assistant Surgeon Rodgers, I. S. M. D., to that Jail, to make a trial of Major Forster's vaccine. The ratio per mille of the daily average sick increased from 18 for convicts and 14 for under-trial prisoners to 22 and 15, respectively, and the ratio of deaths per mille in respect of convicts rose from 16 to 39; that in respect of under-trial prisoners shows a decrease from 15 to 9. The health of the Jubbulpore Jail was wonderfully good. This is ascribed by the Superintendent to the reduction in the rations during the hot weather.

Jail industries. 60. The same industries continue at the three Central Jails. Jubbulpore manufactures supplies for the Supply and Transport Department; at Nagpur the Jail Press prints forms for the use of the Provinces, and prison clothing is manufactured, while Raipur prepares Police and Railway Police clothing. The District Jails carry on the industries of stone-breaking and aloe-pounding. The average number of convicts sentenced to labour decreased from 3,814·46 to

3,663·62; the number employed as prison servants increased from 402·55 to 403·91. The number employed in preparing articles for Jail use decreased from 530·75 to 413·44. The percentage of prisoners employed on manufactures was 43·28 against 43·16 in the previous year.

Cost of Jail administration.

61. The average cost per prisoner fell from Rs. 84-2-11 to Rs. 79-0-10, showing a decrease of Rs. 5-2-1, which exactly corresponds with the decrease in dieting charges, *viz.*, Rs. 22-12-9 against Rs. 27-14-9. There has been a satisfactory decrease in expenditure under all heads, except two. The average profit per head of the number sentenced to labour was Rs. 9-4-0 as compared with Rs. 1-7-1 in 1909, while the average cash profit per head of the number sentenced to labour was Rs. 6-14-11 as compared with Rs. 36-1-3. The savings effected by the employement of prison labour amounted to Rs. 1,00,180 as compared with Rs. 84,105 in 1909. The average net cost per head was Rs. 72-11-0 against Rs. 52-6-0.

6—CIVIL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) of the Central Provinces for the year 1910, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Character of litigation.

62. The number of Divisional and District Judges was the same as in the previous year. Two new Subordinate Judges were appointed during the year: a member of the Commission was allotted to the Judicial Department and a temporary post of Subordinate Judge was sanctioned by the Secretary of State for one year from the 9th July 1910. Litigation increased both in the Central Provinces and Berar, the number of institutions in the former being 100,328 against 92,397 in 1909, and in the latter 34,881 against 31,739. Recovery from a period of agricultural depression and the good harvests of 1910 account to some extent for the increase. The enhanced prosperity of the cultivating classes, in so far as it resulted from the high prices obtainable for cotton and the rise in the wages of labourers, operated chiefly in Berar and in the neighbouring Central Provinces district of Nimar, Wardha, and Nagpur. The figures for 1910 were greatly swollen in certain districts by heavy institutions of mortgage suits. The percentages of suits in each of the three main classes were—for "money and moveables," 69·3 against 74·3 in 1909; under "the Rent Law," 7·6 against 8·4, and "title and other suits," 23·1 against 17·3. The rise in the percentage of suits of the third class, and the fall in those of the other two classes, are due to the heavy institutions of mortgage suits. The Courts of 8 Munsiffs and 4 Subordinate Judges were invested with Small Cause Court powers during the year. This has resulted in a large increase in the number of suits instituted in such Courts: the figures are 21,166 in the Central Provinces and 12,108 in Berar, as compared with 15,870 and 11,787, respectively, in 1909.

Pending files.

63. The increased institutions led to larger pending files, both in the Central Provinces and Berar, the number at the close of the year being 29,478 in the former and 17,142 in the latter, against 20,357 and 10,947, respectively, in 1909. At the close of 1910 the total number of suits pending in the combined territories amounted to 27·4 per cent of the number of suits which had been before the Courts during the year, compared with 20·1 per cent at the end of 1909. The large increase was almost entirely due to the exceptionally heavy institutions of mortgage suits. Mortgage suits which were instituted immediately before the expiry of the extended period of limitation fixed by Section 31 (1) of the Limitation Act, 1908, had been pending for more than three months at the end of the year: consequently suits pending over three months more than doubled, rising from 11,209 in 1909 to 22,919 in 1910. The districts in which the congestion is most serious are Nagpur, Saugor, and West Berar, but arrangements have since been made for relieving the pressure in Nagpur and Saugor, and it is hoped that the files will be reduced to a normal level by the end of 1911. It is also proposed to entertain a temporary additional Munsiff in West Berar to work off the arrears.

Execution of decrees.

64. The number of applications for execution of decrees rose from 119,102 to 121,876, or by 2·3 per cent. The pending file in the Central Provinces rose during the year from 15,044 to 18,500, or by 23 per cent. It thus

seems that some Judges allowed their heavy files of suits to interfere with this branch of their work. The pending file in Berar varied very slightly from that of the previous year. The proportion of wholly infructuous applications fell from 46 to 42 per cent. No marked change in the proportion of cases in which satisfaction was obtained in part and in full was apparent. Insolvency work has again increased, the number of applications rising from 597 to 731, and the pending file from 298 to 314. The provisions of the Insolvency Act are intricate and little understood.

Appellate litigation.

65. The total number of appeals, regular and miscellaneous, which came before the Judicial Commissioner's Court in 1910 was 1,535 compared with 1,457 in 1909. Of these, 976 were disposed of, the pending files rising from 506 to 559. The percentage of cases disposed of in which the Court did not interfere with the decision of the Lower Court was 69·4 compared with 69·8 in the previous year. The number of appeals, regular and miscellaneous, before Divisional Judges declined from 556 to 481. The decrease is principally due to improved distribution of work, whereby in 1910 all but four District Judges tried no original suits below Rs. 1,000 in value, and were thus able to dispose of all appeals up to that limit. The decrease in institutions was accompanied by a great reduction in pending files, the number of regular appeals pending in the Courts having fallen during 1910 from 137 to 88. The average duration for the whole Province fell slightly from 172·1 in 1909 to 168·6 in 1910. The number of regular appeals pending in District Courts increased from 1,164 to 1,341. In the Central Provinces the number of institutions fell from 3,755 to 3,687, but the pending file rose from 554 to 598, while the figures for the two Berar districts decreased both in institutions and disposals.

Miscellaneous.

66. In February 1910 a member of the Indian Civil Service was deputed to work as a Subordinate Judge. The position of members of that Service in the Judicial Department has been greatly improved by the recent orders of the Secretary of State that a member working as a District Judge in the Central Provinces shall draw the same pay as the officer next below him in the ordinary line. Such an officer cannot therefore suffer pecuniary loss, and he may, by officiating as Divisional Judge, while his seniors are working as Assistant Commissioners, gain to a considerable extent. During the year under review separate nazarats were constituted for the Judicial Department in Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Chhindwara, Nimar, and Wardha. The expenditure on Courts, Nazarats, and Process-serving Establishments has much increased. The sanction of the Government of India has been obtained to a revised scale of process-fees drawn up by the Judicial Commissioner, and part of the proceeds will be devoted to improving the pay of process-servers, whose inefficiency or dishonesty may often nullify the advantages gained by the more efficient disposal of cases in the Courts. Except the new Court-house and Record-room at Nagpur, which were opened in January 1910, no new buildings were occupied during the year under review. Satisfactory progress was made with the conversion of the Circuit-house at Yeotmal into a Civil Court-house, and it will shortly be ready for occupation. The Court-house at Khandwa has now been completed, and the one at Bhandara is expected to be ready in June 1912. It is reported that the various changes introduced by the new Code of Civil Procedure are generally appreciated, and that litigants and pleaders are at length becoming familiar with its novel arrangement.

REGISTRATION — 7—REGISTRATION

[Report on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces and Berar, during the three calendar years 1908, 1909 and 1910, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Registration.

67. During the year 1910 fair harvests were reaped, and as a result thereof there was an all-round decrease in registration business. There was also a re-action from the high figures of 1909, as the period of grace allowed by the Limitation Act expired on the 7th August 1910. The total number of registrations fell from 89,462 to 83,342, the decrease in the Central Provinces being 12 per cent and in Berar 2 per cent. Compulsory registrations affecting immoveable property fell from 79,307 to 73,831—optional registrations from 2,976 to 2,511. Berar has a special cause for the decrease in the optional registrations, as sales of mortgages were transferred to compulsory registrations. Registrations affecting moveable property decreased from 6,547 to 6,264.

REGISTRATION

The number of wills registered increased from 628 to 734. The rise in the latter is due to the fear of sudden death from plague. Notwithstanding the fall in volume of business, the income of the Department rose from Rs. 3,09,997 to Rs. 3,15,970. The income fell in the Central Provinces by 10 per cent, but in Berar it increased by 14 per cent, the rise being entirely due to the enhancement in the Berar rates of fees to the level of those long in force in the Central Provinces. The expenditure rose from Rs. 1,13,779 to Rs. 1,18,147, in consequence of the increased commission and temporary Muharrir establishment. The arrangement previously in force in the Central Provinces, by which the Deputy Commissioner was *ex-officio* District Registrar, has been altered. The Treasury Officer now undertakes the inspection of Registration offices. The system of recording thumb-impressions works satisfactorily.

8—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

[Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1910-11, and Part VIII of the Statistics of British India.]

Number and constitution of Municipalities

68. The number of Municipalities at the close of the year 1910-11 was 57, no change having occurred during the year. In the Central Provinces, Kalmeshwar, Khapa, and Pachmarhi, where the Committees are appointed by nomination, are the only Municipalities in which the elective principle is not in force; in Berar there are four such Municipalities, Amraoti Camp, Ellichpur City, Ellichpur Civil Station, and Buldana. The resignation of the President of Wardha Municipality, who was not an ordinary member of the Committee, caused a decrease of one in the number of members, while the filling up of a vacancy of the previous year increased the strength of the Jubbulpore Municipal Committee by one member. In Berar, three vacancies of nominated and two vacancies of elected members remained unfilled on the 31st March 1911. In the Central Provinces the attendance of members was satisfactory, but in Berar it was poor. General elections or partial elections under the rotation system introduced in the Central Provinces in 1908 took place in almost all Municipalities. The interest in elections varies greatly in different places.

Income.

69. The total income of all the Municipalities in the Central Provinces and Berar, excluding opening balances, loans and account heads, was Rs. 25,20,695 against Rs. 24,30,682 in the preceding year. Of this 3¼ lakhs was contributed by Government for special purposes, mainly sanitary improvements, 2⅓ lakhs being devoted to this object, including sums of 1 45 lakhs for the Gorewara Water-works Project at Nagpur and of half a lakh for the drainage scheme at the same place. The total income from taxation rose from Rs. 14,84,427 to Rs. 16,07,437. Of this more than half was from octroi, the figures being Rs. 8,81,880 against Rs. 7,98,852 of the previous year. This substantial increase reflects the general prosperity of the year. In only five towns, Bhandara, Chanda, Warora, Harda, and Raipur, where plague had an adverse effect, was there any decrease under this head. There was an increase of Rs. 25,347 in Nagpur, where the volume of trade was unprecedented. Compared with the Octroi receipts, the other variations were insignificant, but receipts under the head "Water-works" increased by Rs. 19,056, under "Trades and Professions" by Rs. 9,974, under "Conservancy" by Rs. 9,612, under "Houses and Lands" by Rs. 7,828, and under "Animals and Vehicles" by Rs. 6,156. The substitution of a new vehicle-tax in Wardha for the Bazaar dues, and the classification of this tax under a new head in Arvi and Hinghanghat, accounted for a nominal decrease of Rs. 17,060 under that head.

Expenditure.

70. The combined opening balance of the Municipalities in the Central Provinces and Berar at the beginning of the year was Rs. 10,75,050, while the receipts amounted to Rs. 31,64,279, making a total of Rs. 42,39,329 available for expenditure. The total disbursements, including extraordinary and debt heads, amounted to Rs. 32,91,367, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 9,47,962. The actual expenditure, excluding extraordinary and debt heads, amounted to Rs. 27,83,676, showing an increase of Rs. 2,63,529 over the figures of the preceding year. The cost of General Administration and collection rose from Rs. 2,84,221 to Rs. 2,99,976. Of this increase, Rs. 11,000 was due to the introduction of pension schemes for Municipal employés in the majority of Municipalities. The cost of collection of taxes was 10 per cent in the Central Provinces and 3 per cent in Berar against 11 per cent and 3 per cent in the previous year. Plague charges

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

decreased by Rs. 27,973 to Rs. 44,212, but were distributed over a larger number of Municipalities: Government contributed Rs 18,000 of the amount. The most important decreases under this head were Rs 20,000 in Nagpur and Rs. 10,000 in Jubbulpore. The charges for lighting and fire-protection rose from Rs. 80,473 to Rs. 94,636, while expenditure on markets and slaughter-houses increased by Rs. 11,887 to Rs. 1,23,561. Expenditure under the latter head includes a sum of Rs. 15,000 spent by the Wardha Municipality on the construction of a market. The capital outlay on water-works was Rs 4,67,630 against Rs. 3,96,689. This was mainly due to an expenditure of Rs 3,62,000 in Nagpur. Rs. 70,000 and Rs. 27,000 were also spent in Harda and Seoni respectively. Good progress was made with the Gorewara Scheme at Nagpur, and in Harda and Seoni the above sums represent final payments on schemes for the improvement of the water-works. There are several other Municipalities in which expenditure on the improvement of the water-supply will have to be incurred. On drainage Rs 19,962 only were expended all expenditure under this head, except upon necessary repairs, has been deferred until expert advice has been received. Messrs. Lane Brown and Hewlett, Sanitary Engineers, have prepared a scheme for Nagpur at a cost of 35½ lakhs, and the Municipality have decided to take up a portion of the scheme at a cost of 16 lakhs, of which sum a Provincial grant-in-aid of 8 lakhs has been sanctioned. The same firm has prepared schemes for Akola, Khamgaon, and Wardha, and survey is being made for one in Jubbulpore. The Public Works Department has prepared estimates for proper surface drainage schemes in Burhanpur, Khandwa, Harda, and Itarsi, and estimates have been sanctioned for a survey of the drainage schemes of Amraoti Town and Karanja.

Loans.

71. There are 14 Municipalities, *viz*, Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Hinganghat, Arvi, Ramtek, Jubbulpore, Seoni, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Harda, Raipur, Drug, and Akola, which have taken loans from Government, and two Municipalities, *viz.*, Seoni and Saoner, which have taken loans from private persons. Nagpur received an instalment of Rs. 1,25,000 for the Gorewara Water-works, and the first instalment of half a lakh of the drainage scheme loan. Jubbulpore received the second instalment of Rs. 87,500 of the loan of Rs. 1,75,000 for the extension of the city. Harda took the second instalment of Rs. 45,000 of the loan for the extension of the water-works, and Seoni received Rs. 27,000 for the same object. Raipur received a loan of Rs. 20,000 to be spent on the improvement of the Gol Bazar, and Arvi one of Rs. 15,000 to be devoted to a market. The total balance outstanding at the close of 1910-11 amounted to Rs. 18,85,340. Of this sum, the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Municipalities, which are the largest borrowers, owe Rs 8,16,318 and Rs. 4,98,548 respectively. No anxiety is felt about their financial position, but it is remarkable how their credit has extended in the past few years.

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

9—DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

[Resolution on the working of the District Councils and Local Boards for 1910-11, and Part VIII of the Statistics of British India.]

Number, constitution, meetings and attendance.

72. The formal reconstitution of the Betul District Council and the Local Boards subordinate to it, due to the creation of the Bhainsdehi Local Board, was effected during the year. In Chanda the Zamindari Local Fund was amalgamated with the District Fund, and the Zamindari Board became a regular Local Board under the District Council. By this means the number of Local Boards increased from 76 to 78, while the number of District Councils and District Boards remained unchanged. The Mandla District and Sironcha Tahsil of the Chanda District continue to be exempt from the operations of the Central Provinces Local Self-Government Act; and in Berar the Melghat Taluq of Amraoti is the only taluq in which the Berar Rural Boards Law, 1885, is not in force. The great majority of the District Councils and Local Boards held the prescribed number of meetings, but the attendance of members was not all that could be desired. In some places this was due to the prevalence of plague. During the year increased powers have been delegated to District Councils and Local Boards in the Central Provinces in regard to the execution of works and control over expenditure. It will be possible to gauge the effects of this change when the system has had time to get into smooth working order. The interest taken in elections was small, but there was some improvement on last year's results. In some places there is competition

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

but in a great many cases the local magnates are re-elected, time after time, without opposition. As a general rule the best men available have seats on the Local Boards, a position to which a certain amount of dignity is attached.

Income and Expenditure.

73. The income and expenditure of the year showed a decrease of Rs 47,000 and Rs. 1,71,000, respectively. The income of the previous year was high owing to the collection of arrears of local rates suspended during the last famine, to the transfer to the Yeotmal and Amraoti District Boards of the surplus of the Jaglia and Local Cess Fund in arrears for 1908-09, and to a change in classification of Security Deposits. An increase of Rs. 32,000 in cattle-pound receipts failed to counterbalance these losses. The decrease in expenditure was mainly under Public Works in Berar, where during the last two years District Boards had been spending more than their income and had exhausted accumulated balances. All District Boards are in a satisfactory position financially and have surplus balances, many of them largely in excess of the prescribed minimum. This is partly due to the fact that District Councils often fail to work up to an arranged programme of works—a defect which should be remedied by the appointment of a Local Fund Engineer for each Division, with effect from 1st April 1912. The expenditure on education was Rs. 5 64,000 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 2,96,000 in Berar. These amounts were, respectively, 36 and 34 per cent of the total income. It has been held that 33 per cent of the total income may be properly spent on education, and these percentages are not largely in excess of that amount. The number of Primary Schools in the Central Provinces increased by 31 and stood at 1,647 at the close of the year, while in Berar there were 627—an increase of 10. Middle Schools in the Central Provinces decreased in number from 96 to 89, but there was no change in Berar. In many parts there is a demand for more schools, which cannot be met owing to the paucity of trained teachers and the necessity of giving all teachers at least a living wage. The expenditure on Civil Works in the Central Provinces was practically stationary. The heavy decline in Berar of Rs. 1,73,000 has already been noticed. The expenditure on Roads in the Central Provinces is still only about half the amount received on account of the road cess; but the appointment of the Local Fund Divisional Engineer should remedy this defect. The expenditure on cattle-pounds showed a slight decline, while the receipts increased by Rs. 32,000. All charges on account of Veterinary Dispensaries, except the cost of Veterinary Assistants, are met from District Funds. The growing popularity of this Department testifies to the fact that this money is well spent. The expenditure on Arboriculture showed no change; in some cases the work of the Boards is supplemented by the individual efforts of public-spirited persons.

10—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING)

MILITARY

Number of active Corps.

74 The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles are the only two Volunteer Corps in the Provinces.

The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles.

75. The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles sustained a severe loss in the accidental death of the Adjutant, Major G. M. Rolland, *V. C.* (101st Grenadiers), whose energy and keenness had done so much to promote the efficiency of the Corps. His place as Adjutant has been taken by Captain E. B. L'Estrange (79th Carnatic Infantry). The enrolled strength of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles rose from 1,124 to 1,263, of whom 30 were commissioned officers. Of this total figure, 996 men were extra-efficient, 245 efficient, and 22 non-efficient. Marksmen numbered 206 as against 297 last year, but there has been no real deterioration in this respect, as the test has now been made more difficult. Financially the Corps was in a satisfactory position. It celebrated the Jubilee of its enrolment by a specially large muster in Camp, from the 6th to the 15th January 1911. The average attendance was 498, and on the last day it reached a total of 549. His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to appoint the Commandant (Lieut.-Colonel H. J. Stanyon, C. I. E.) his Honorary Aide-de-Camp. A grant by the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of 10 Nagpur Rifle Scholarships has given a stimulus both to recruiting and to the general efficiency of the Corps. Three of these scholarships have already been awarded.

MILITARY

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles.

76. The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Corps is divided into two battalions, the first of which is under the administrative control of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, its head-quarters being at Kharagpur in Bengal, while the second has its head-quarters at Nagpur. The total enrolled strength of the Second Battalion on the 31st March 1911 was 498 (including 21 officers) as against 487 in the previous year. Only eight men were classed as non-efficients. The financial position of the Corps was satisfactory. Both Battalions took part in the Presidency Brigade manœuvres at Gokulpur. The Camp was attended by 10 officers and 95 men of the 2nd Battalion, and various schemes were carried out in connection with the defence of the railway. The Nagpur Detachment took part in the practice for the defence of Nagpur on 13th October 1910.

CHAPTER IV

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

1—AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE

[Reports on the working of the Department of Agriculture and on the Agricultural Stations of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th June 1911.]

77. The staff of the Imperial Service remained unchanged, but during the year two officers were absent on short leave. Temporary arrangements to carry on their work were made. During longer absences such local arrangements will, however, entail serious loss of efficiency, and the provision of a suitable leave reserve is an urgent need. In addition to this, the field open to the Department, both in experiment and demonstration, is expanding so rapidly that the appointment of a Third Deputy Director of Agriculture cannot be deferred much longer. During the year some extension of the Provincial Service has been sanctioned by the Government of India, and this, together with the division of the Subordinate Service into the upper and lower service, will do much to improve the prospects of the members of the Agricultural Department and encourage the recruitment of suitable candidates, so as to enable the work to be extended to the many areas where demonstration is urgently required.

Agricultural education.

78. The College made good progress during the year, but the teaching is still hampered by want of laboratory accommodation, which will shortly be available, and suitable class rooms, which cannot be provided until the laboratory is moved from its present position. The Nagpur Farm, which was formerly the sole experimental farm of the Provinces, has now been adapted to instructional purposes, and forms a most useful adjunct to the College, and the proposal to attach a small instructional dairy to this farm will serve to interest the students in the practical management of live-stock. The grant of the degree of L. Ag. to men passing in the 1st Class has had a marked effect on the keenness of the students, and it is satisfactory to note that four men have gained this degree. The Malguzari Class attached to the Nagpur Farm was closed during the year and replaced by more practical courses on other farms in the Province. The *Agricultural Gazette* continued to maintain its popularity, and the number of copies issued during the year rose by nearly 200.

Agricultural enquiry and demonstration.

79. A most important work in connection with rice was the demonstration of rice-transplanting in Chhattisgarh, where broadcasting has been hitherto practically universal. The Department succeeded in raising the area transplanted to 6,000 acres, a considerable advance in view of the restricted nature of the agency at its disposal, but far too little to overtake the enormous extension in irrigation which the next few years will bring. The value of bone-dust manure in rice cultivation has been proved in past years and it is most satisfactory to note that as a result of the experiments made by the Department a private firm has set up a bone-crushing factory at Raipur. If the cultivators of Chhattisgarh be induced to purchase and use this manure on a large scale, a considerable improvement in the rice yields there will result. In the Wainganga area, where the cultivators had hitherto been considered the best rice-growers in the Province, the system of transplanting was demonstrated with success. Experiments were continued to discover the manures most suitable for sugarcane and the varieties best suited for local requirements, and the problem of the best system of culture for this crop is now being dealt with. In regard to cotton, the experiments of the year confirmed the view that *rosea* was a better paying crop than *buri*. The Akola Farm, mainly devoted to growing cotton seed, was not able to supply seed for the numerous private seed farms which had sprung up, but care will be taken to see that the seed issued from those farms does not degenerate owing to the use of their own seed for too long a period. The most important work undertaken in regard to juar was the demonstration of a better system of cultivation for kharif crops in the Jubbulpore District, and the results obtained were most satisfactory. Experiments were continued in regard to the optimum quantity of water for the irrigation of wheat, and a large number of varieties of wheat were under trial on the Hoshangabad Farm. The experiments in Sericulture were continued during the year, but the results have not proved

AGRICULTURE

successful owing to the fact that the problem of preventing disease is still unsolved. The industry is one of great possibilities, but before any demonstration work can be undertaken, further research is necessary. The two cattle-breeding farms at Nagpur and Hoshangabad continued to work well.

District Associations.

80. The Agricultural Associations continued to do good work, and the experience gained showed that small associations, representing definite areas, with definite problems suitable for demonstration, were most successful. The influence of District Officers in the working of the Agricultural Associations is most marked, and with this object in view all Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to realize the necessity of taking a direct and personal interest in the work of the Associations.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

1-(*a*)—CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

[Report on the working of Co-operative Credit Societies, Central Provinces and Berar, for the year ending 31st March 1911, and Statistics of British India, Part II, Commercial.]

Co-operative Credit Societies.

81. For the first six months of the year, the post of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies was combined with that of Director of Agriculture, but on the 10th October 1910 a whole-time Registrar was appointed. Owing to the temporary arrangements that were necessary to fill the post, the full effects of the appointment of a whole-time Registrar did not appear, and the work of the year consisted rather in taking stock of the position and reorganization than in any wide extension of the movement. During the pioneer stage several different types of societies had been established. Some had proved failures, and others, though successful to a certain extent, had shown obvious defects in their constitutions, and it was only in the districts of Jubbulpore and Balaghat that Societies were established on a firm and progressive basis. In these two districts there was a remarkable extension of the movement, but in other districts efforts had been directed almost entirely to reorganizing existing societies and substituting sound constitutions for weak ones.

Societies.

82. During the year 7 new Central Banks and 141 Rural Societies were registered ; of the latter 76 were in the Jubbulpore and 45 in the Balaghat District. Taking the results as a whole, the number of Rural Societies more than doubled ; the membership increased by more than half, and working capital by more than three-quarters, while the working capital of Central Banks rose from Rs 82,135 to Rs. 1,74,517. At the close of the year there were in existence 12 Central Banks, 8 Urban Societies, and 280 Rural Societies. The total co-operative capital in use rose from Rs. 2,92,100 to Rs. 5,02,082. Repayments were excellent and punctually made, and reserve funds increased from Rs. 12,993 to Rs. 20,928. A most prominent feature of the Co-operative Credit movement is the creation of capital, and the increase of reserve funds is a matter of great importance.

Working of Societies—Central Banks.

83. There was an increase in the number of members and the working capital of these banks during the year. The Central Bank at Sehora retained its commanding lead. It had a cash credit of Rs 50,000 with the Jubbulpore branch of the Allahabad Bank, of Rs. 35,000 with the firm of R. B. Seth Jiwandas, and of Rs. 15,000 with the Bhargava Commercial Bank of Jubbulpore. By these means it raised its working capital from Rs. 49,355 to Rs. 1,16,729, and fully financed 102 Rural Societies as against 72 in 1909-10. The Central Bank in Murwara, although registered in October 1910, did not begin work till some time after, and with a capital of Rs. 6,941 declared a small profit. The Balaghat District Bank, which ranks after Jubbulpore in importance, was formally registered before the close of the year, and with a capital of Rs. 20,000 earned sufficient profits by loans to the Unions of the district, to enable Rs. 100 to be carried to the reserve fund, a dividend of 6 per cent on the share capital to be paid, and a balance of Rs. 112 to be carried forward. The working capital of the Betul Central Bank, which was not favourably reported on in the previous year, rose from Rs. 18, 06 to Rs. 20,578, the share capital remaining stationary, and sufficient profits were secured to permit of a 6½ per cent dividend on the share capital, after carrying one-fourth of the net profits to the reserve. There were two Central Banks in the Hoshangabad District—one in Hoshangabad itself, which started work in the latter

half of the year, and the other at Harda, which was formed in the beginning of the year. By the end of the year the working capital of the Hoshangabad Bank amounted to Rs. 2,320, which was utilized in financing 7 societies, while that of the Harda Bank amounted to Rs. 6,741, the bulk of which was loaned to the Rural Societies in the tahsil. The latter bank, though only nine months old, showed a profit of over 8 per cent on the capital, after carrying one-fourth of the net profits to the reserve fund. The working capital of the Akola Central Bank rose from Rs. 10,710 to Rs. 15,152 during the year; and whereas in the previous year only Rs. 1,550 were out in loans, this year practically the whole of the existing working capital of over Rs. 15,000 had been given out in loans. A sum of Rs. 200 was set aside as a reserve fund; although it cannot be said that the Akola Bank is yet in a healthy financial condition, something definite was done to indicate the road towards recovery. The Sironcha Central Bank made some progess during the year; the practice of giving loans to individual shareholders was stopped; the working capital rose from Rs. 3,244 to Rs. 6,054; the net profits were Rs. 226, equal to 9 per cent on the share capital, but no dividend was paid, it being the desire of the Registrar that the whole of the profits should be utilized in increasing the reserve fund, which at the close of the year amounted to only Rs. 200.

Urban Banks.

84. Excluding a society at Raipur, which was registered some years ago but never started work, there were at the end of the year seven Urban Societies at Balaghat, Hatta, Baihar, Harda, Burhanpur, Nagpur, and Badnur—the members of the last two being exclusively Government employés. On the whole, these banks worked well, their membership having increased from 1,186 to 1,247 and working capital from Rs. 69,430 to Rs. 79,534. The Balaghat Bank had a working capital of Rs. 17,654, making over Rs. 50 per member; members' deposits amounted to Rs. 3,653 and the reserve fund to Rs. 2,500. The Hatta Urban Bank, although a smaller society than that at Balaghat, had twice the working capital available per member. Two very interesting experiments have been tried here. Two trade groups have been separated off as distinct societies borrowing jointly from the Urban Bank on unlimited liability. The realizations of the Harda Urban Bank were good, capital was ample, and a separate reserve fund of Rs. 1,175 was accumulated. The Nagpur Press Society continued its satisfactory working, members' deposits amounting to over Rs. 8,000, while there were no bad debts; but the position in Badnur was not so satisfactory, and the introduction of a Provident Fund subscription on the lines adopted in the Press Society at Nagpur is contemplated.

Rural Banks.

85 The number of Rural Societies rose during the year from 139 to 280, while membership increased from 4,859 to 7,203 and working capital from Rs. 1,40,535 to Rs. 2,48,031. To this general increase the Jubbulpore district contributed more than half, while Balaghat made a good second. All the other districts, where there are societies, contributed their quota, except Betul, in which district, al hough the number of societies increased by two, membership declined by 256 and working capital by Rs. 6,461. This was due to the reorganization of the old societies which proved too unwieldy, being recruited from 15 to 20 villages. They were, moreover, formed on a share basis—a method of organization which is entirely out of favour in these Provinces. These societies were converted into a number of small societies formed, village by village, from among those of the old members who were interested in continuing either as borrowers or as genuine supporters. The shares of the retiring members of the original societies had to be repaid, with interest if possible, and those of members who passed into the re-formed societies were converted into deposits at their personal account. The fall in working capital was due largely to the reorganization in Shahpur, where, though the work was completed before the 31st March, formal sanction was only received in May. At the close of the year the old Rural Societies had a substantial reserve of Rs. 3,140, which will be of great use in facilitating reorganization.

Resources.

86. No Government loan was made to any society in the Province during the year. The policy of giving Government financial aid is now definitely discouraged, and the total Government grant outstanding at the close of the year was only Rs. 6,050. As regards other sources of capital, the Central Banks have continued to justify the system on which they are organized. Nowhere,

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

except in Sironcha, was a fairly adequate supply of funds not forthcoming, and the success of the Sehora Central Bank shows that the system is fully capable of winning the confidence of the larger capitalists. Considerable advance was made during the year in deposits by rural members, the total rising from Rs. 16,014 to Rs. 22,406.

VETERINARY

1 (*b*)—VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

[Report of the Civil Veterinary Department of the Central Provinces during the year ending the 31st March 1911.]

The Veterinary Department.

87. The figures of the year show that the number of cases treated by Veterinary Assistants on tour increased by 50 per cent, and those treated at dispensaries by 24 per cent. The number of dispensaries open was 65 against 59 in the year preceding. Rinderpest was not as prevalent as usual, but foot and mouth disease was very bad throughout the year, while hæmorrhagic septicæmia was reported from every district. On the other hand, there were only four outbreaks of surra, and the evidence collected by the Department shows that anthrax is not so common as was supposed. There was a great falling off in the number of animals inoculated for rinderpest and hæmorrhagic septicæmia. The falling off in the first case was due to the decrease in the number of outbreaks, while the restriction of inoculation for hæmorrhagic septicæmia was due to greater caution in its application owing to the results in the case of some Court of Wards' cattle at Wardha having been unfortunate. At the same time it may be remarked that opposition to serum treatment is reported to be dying out, and intelligent cattle-owners have in some cases telegraphed for supplies of the serum on the appearance of the disease. The staff at the close of the year consisted of 6 Veterinary Inspectors and 86 Veterinary Assistants. The cadre of the latter class is being filled gradually as suitable candidates are forthcoming, and it is gratifying to note that the men who are now seeking employment as Veterinary Assistants are of a better stamp, and are more contented with their lot, than those originally recruited. Revised and more favourable rules for the regulation of their private practice have been drawn up, but some difficulty is still found in recruiting suitable men locally. The Compounders attached to Veterinary Dispensaries are also improving, now that their prospects are as good as those of their fellows attached to dispensaries for men. The total cost of the Department remained practically unchanged.

WEATHER AND CROPS

2—WEATHER AND CROPS

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1910-11 ; Area and Yield of certain Principal Crops in India, 1910-11.]

Rainfall.

88. The monsoon set in on the 10th June, and the ensuing rainfall for the month was well distributed and sufficient for agricultural requirements. In July a break in the middle of the month caused anxiety, which was subsequently dispelled and sowings of kharif crops were practically completed in all districts. More rain than usual was received in August, September, and the beginning of October, and an opportune break then occurred. Harvesting of kharif and sowing of rabi crops proceeded in October; some kharif crops suffered from excessive rain. Germination of rabi crops was good. Rainfall was heavy in November, and, while causing some damage to kharif crops, was beneficial to rabi. There was no rain in December, and light beneficial showers occurred in January ; February was rainless. Rain fell in March, and April was rainless. The total average rainfall during the year for the Central Provinces as a whole was 52·70 inches, as compared with 48·21, the average for 43 years. For Berar the total rainfall during the year averaged 46·26 inches as against 30·58, the average for 17 years. All districts, except six, received more than the average rainfall.

Character of the season.

89. The kharif area in the Central Provinces decreased by 230,000 acres, while the rabi area increased by 864,000, of which increase 480,000 acres were double-cropped, leaving a net increase in cropped area of 154,000 acres ; the net cropped area rising from 17,570,000 to 17,724,000 acres, or by one per cent. In Berar there was a small drop in net cropped area. The heavy rains in November were very favourable for double cropping. The area double-cropped in the Central Provinces, of which more than half was in the Chhattisgarh Division, stood at 2,033,480 acres—a figure which has never been attained before. The kharif cropped area decreased everywhere, except in the Chhattisgarh Division

and the Districts of Balaghat and Nimar. The decrease was in rice, juar, and til. The area under cotton increased; this was due to high prices and favourable conditions at sowing time. The decrease in the kharif area amounted to 2 per cent in the Central Provinces and Berar as a whole, and may be set down as ordinary fluctuation. The continued heavy rain at the end of the season was good for rabi. The long break in July gave a good opportunity for preparing land. Continuous rain induced cultivators to plough up kharif land and sow rabi crops. The outturns of some of the principal crops are described in the following paragraphs.

Yield of the autumn (kharif) crops.

90. *Rice.*—The area under rice decreased in the Central Provinces by 84,000 acres, or 2 per cent. The rainfall was seasonable and well distributed for rice, and the crop did well in Chhattisgarh and the Wainganga Districts, which are the principal rice-growing tracts in the Central Provinces. Transplanted rice did better than broadcast in all the important rice districts. For the Provinces as a whole the outturn of broadcast and transplanted rice amounted to 105 and 109 per cent, respectively, against 83 and 98 in the preceding year.

Juar.—Juar, which is largely grown as a mixture with arhar, occupied 1,762,000 acres in the Central Provinces, or 325,000 acres (16 per cent) less than the area sown in the previous year. In Berar the area decreased by 305,000 acres, or by 11 per cent The reasons for this were the encroachment of cotton on the juar area and the heavy and continuous rain which caused juar to be ploughed up and rabi crops substituted. The outturn in the important tracts ranged from 50 to 102 per cent of a normal crop. The total yield for both Central Provinces and Berar was 85 per cent, compared with 93 in 1909-10.

Cotton.—The area under cotton increased by 164,000 acres (13 per cent) in the Central Provinces and 160,000 acres (5 per cent) in Berar. There was sufficient rainfall in the beginning of the monsoon, sowings were generally successful, and germination was good. Continuous rain in August, September, and in the beginning of October, however, greatly retarded weeding and stunted growth, and in Hoshangabad and Nimar caused a certain amount of resowing with other crops. A break then caused great improvement, but the plants again suffered from excessive rain in the middle of November. Altogether the season was not a good one. The estimated outturn of cotton ranged from 39 to 116 per cent of a normal crop, as compared with 60 to 150 per cent in the preceding year

Til.—The area under til decreased by 3 per cent in the Central Provinces and by a larger percentage in Berar. Sowings were successful and germination good. There was too much rain in August, September, the beginning of October, and in the middle of November, and fields sown with late til, of which the germination was spoiled by heavy rain, were ploughed up and sown with winter crops. The outturn was normal for the Provinces as a whole.

Yield of the spring rabi crops.

Wheat.—The area placed under wheat and wheat-gram in the Central Provinces amounted to 3,475,889 acres and exceeded the previous year's figures by 455,000 acres (15 per cent). The proportion of wheat-gram to the whole wheat area was 39 per cent. In Berar the wheat area increased from 319,900 to 353,600 acres, or by 11 per cent. Good rain was received in the beginning of October, the middle of November, and January. The crop was good in the important wheat-growing districts; for the Provinces as a whole the crop was normal.

Linseed.—The area under linseed increased by 138,000 acres (15 per cent) in the Central Provinces and by 15,000 acres (30 per cent) in Berar. The season was favourable. The outturn in Seoni, Narsinghpur, Mandla, and Yeotmal was 135, 126, 120, and 112, respectively; in Damoh, Hoshangabad, Nimar, Betul, and Chhindwara, from 100 to 110; and in Saugor, Jubbulpore, and Berar (except Yeotmal), below the average. In Chhattisgarh and the Nagpur country, where the crop is sown on a large scale, the outturn ranged from a normal (100) to a full crop (120). For the Central Provinces as a whole the outturn works out to 110 per cent and for Berar to 100 per cent.

3—HORTICULTURE

HORTICULTURE

[Report on the management of the Provincial and District Gardens of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1910-11.]

Provincial gardens.

91. The total rainfall at the Maharaj Bagh was 51·73 inches as against 56·73 inches in the previous year. The season was on the whole favourable for

HORTICULTURE

horticulture, though fruit trees, especially mangoes and oranges, gave poor crops. The cultivation of vegetables could be improved. The total number of plants sold and distributed during the year was 21,511 as against 22,217 in the year previous. This decrease was due to difficulty found in irrigating the nurseries from the temporary water-supply. The total value of plants and vegetables sold was Rs. 9,280, being an increase of Rs. 638 over 1909-10, and the expenditure rose from Rs. 20,368 to Rs. 21,607. At Telinkheri the garden was better kept and better watered than the Maharaj Bagh. There was an increase over last year's figures of Rs. 864 in receipts and of 700 in the number of plants distributed. The fruit crops were fairly good At Pachmarhi the rainfall was 79 inches, being almost equal to the average. Notwithstanding heavy rain in August, which did much damage to vegetables, the season was favourable to horticultural operations. The supply of English vegetables was sufficient to meet the demand caused by supplying the troops in the depôt with fresh vegetables. The crops of peaches, plums, mulberries, raspberries, strawberries, and plantains were good, the mango crop alone being poor. Flowers were again excellent, especially the chrysanthemums and cactus dahlias. Receipts rose to Rs. 4,223, while expenditure rose by Rs. 535. The Botanical Garden at Nagpur continued to make good progress. A plant-house was erected, and now contains a named collection of crotons and dracœnas, sent by the Superintendent of the Government Gardens at Poona. The collection of ferns was increased as the result of an expedition in the Balaghat District.

District gardens.

92. The season was on the whole favourable to horticulture, though excessive rain in September and again in November caused loss in a number of gardens. Vegetables gave good crops, but the fruit crops were in some instances poor. There was a small increase of Rs. 243 in receipts and a decrease of Rs. 85 in expenditure. There was a large increase over last year in the number of plants sold and distributed.

Court of ward's gardens.

93. Gardens were maintained by the Ellikelli and Nachangaon Estates in the Wardha District. The Ahiri Court of Wards' garden has been restricted to fruit culture, and a more suitable site has been found for a vegetable garden. As a result the annual deficit of nearly Rs. 200 was reduced to Rs. 114.

FORESTS

4—FORESTS

[Reports from the Conservators of Forests of the Northern, Southern, and Berar Circles, on the Forest Administration in the Central Provinces and Berar, for the year 1910-11, with the review thereon, and Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*), Finance and Revenue.]

Forest areas.

94. Excluding exchanges and transfers between the various classes of forests, the net result of the year was a decrease of 52 square miles in the area under the control of the Department. The additions comprised 10,868 acres, of which 6,856 acres were due to recalculation of areas, 3,420 acres to afforestation, and 592 acres to gain in exchanges of land. The decreases amounted to 43,942 acres, of which 26,812 were due to recalculation of areas, principally in the Mandla Forest Division, and 17,130 acres to disforestment. The principal disforestments from the A Class reserved forests were 1,595 acres in Seoni on account of revision of boundaries and 673 acres in South Chanda for cultivation, while from the B Class areas the North and South Chanda and the Betul Divisions lost 1,575, 1,310, and 7,232 acres, respectively, all for cultivation. Settlement operations continued and the area finally settled during the year amounted to 5·82 square miles. The final orders of the Government regarding the settlement of the C-III Class forests of the Melghat were received after the close of the year, and resulted in the disappearance of this class of State forests, 2,047,867 acres being transferred to A Class forests and the remainder included in Revenue villages.

Demarcation and survey.

95. The total expenditure on demarcation was slightly less than in 1909-10, being Rs. 21,242 as compared with Rs. 21,684. Changes due to afforestation, disforestment, and the correction of existing boundaries necessitated 139 miles of new demarcation at a total cost of Rs. 2,858, or Rs. 21 per mile, as compared with Rs. 27 per mile in 1909-10. The total length of forest boundaries in the Provinces at the end of the year was 35,788 miles, and the percentage of these artificially demarcated was 92·25. Continued attention was paid to the simplification

of boundaries by exchanges of land and by the elimination of surperfluous pillars, more especially in the Saugor and North Chanda Forest Divisions, the work being carried out in the former in connection with the Land Revenue settlement now in progress. The work carried out in Berar by the Survey of India Party No. 6 comprised 81 square miles of forest in the Yeotmal Division, with interior details on the 2-inch scale, and a traverse of 804 miles of boundaries on the 4-inch scale. There was no regular survey in either of the other circles, but a number of forest villages were surveyed locally in the Bilaspur and North Chanda Divisions of the Southern Circle.

Working-plans.

96. The revised working-plan for the forests of the Bhandara Division (524 square miles) was sanctioned during the year, while much progress was made with the revision of existing plans in the Chhindwara Division of the Northern Circle, in the Bilaspur, Balaghat, Nagpur-Wardha, and South Chanda Divisions of the Southern Circle, and in the compilation of the new plans for the Amraoti, Akola, Yeotmal, Buldana, and Nimar Divisions of the Berar Circle. Work on the plan for the Melghat Division in Berar remained in abeyance owing to the necessity of awaiting orders on the settlement of the C-III Class forests, but now that these orders have been issued, this important work will be continued. Of the total forest area of 21,384 square miles, plans have been sanctioned for an area of 9,600 square miles (excluding 3,040 square miles, over which revisions were in hand); revisions and new compilations are in progress for 6,980 square miles; plans are still required for 2,724 square miles, while for 2,080 square miles plans are not necessary, as most of the area is either actually (though not legally) under cultivation, or else is reserved for it. The only regular preliminary working-plan report sanctioned during the year was that for the Yeotmal Division, but a minor revision of the felling prescriptions of the plan for the Betul Division was also approved.

Roads, buildings, tanks and wells.

97. The expenditure incurred during the year on new roads and paths was Rs. 48,017 as compared with Rs. 40,568 in the previous year. 329 miles of new roads were made at an average cost of Rs. 146 per mile, as compared with 195 miles and Rs. 208 in 1909-10. Under repairs, the expenditure was Rs. 23,567 against Rs. 18,799 in the year previous. The total expenditure on buildings during the year amounted to Rs. 81,981, which was less than that of 1909-10 by Rs. 18,355, and of which Rs. 56,795 were attributable to new works and Rs. 25,186 to repairs. In the Berar Circle the expenditure rose by some Rs. 3,000, in the Northern Circle it was approximately the same as in the previous year, while in the Southern Circle it fell by Rs. 20,660 mainly under the head of new works; this Circle, however, spent Rs. 10,000 more than the Northern Circle and Rs. 8,000 more than the Berar Circle. There was a decrease of Rs. 4,373 in the expenditure incurred on tanks and wells, the cost of these works amounting to Rs. 36,733, of which about Rs. 19,000 was due to the Southern Circle. The total outlay on roads, buildings, tanks and wells was Rs. 1,90,418 as compared with Rs. 2,00,809 in the previous year.

Forest offences.

98. The total number of forest offences reported during the year was 9,085, which, while it exceeded the average of the past three years by 968, was less than the number of cases of 1909-10 by 217, or 2 per cent. The cases of injury by fire decreased by 115, which decrease was shared by all Circles, as also was the fall in the number of cases of unauthorised fellings and of other offences. Of the total number of cases of the year, 2 per cent were taken into Court, 87 per cent were compounded, 5 per cent were undetected, and 6 per cent were pending at the close of the year. Of the cases taken into Court, convictions were obtained in 82, 81, and 70 per cent in the Southern, Berar, and Northern Circles, respectively, the percentage for the Province being 76, or 3 less than in the previous year. The number of cases compounded was 8,386 and the average amounts realized from each person involved were Rs. 2-8-0 and Rs. 2-0-10 in the Northern and Southern Circles; in Berar, this amount varied from Re. 0-9-9 in Yeotmal to Rs. 4-6-10 in Betul, where many cases of organized theft were dealt with under Section 67 of the Act.

Protection from fire.

99. Fire-protection operations were more successful in 1910-11 than in 1909-10, but the results were still considerably below those attained in 1908-09. This was due to the fact that late rains made the proper clearing of the lines

difficult, and the absence of showers during the hot weather, except in the Southern Circle, rendered the forests very inflammable. The highest percentage of success was reached in the Melghat Division, where failures amounted to 0·009 per cent only, and the highest percentage of failure occurred in the Nimar Division, where 14 per cent of the protected area was burnt. The total area over which fire-protection was attempted fell by 146 square miles, this decrease being mainly due to previous inaccurate calculation of areas in the Saugor Division. The total cost of fire-protection was Rs. 1,13,662, giving an average cost per square mile of Rs 9-12-0 as compared with Rs. 9-4-3 in the previous year. The Southern and Berar Circles were responsible for the increase.

Exploitation, sylviculture and management.

100 Excluding selection fellings in the sâl forests of Mandla, the areas under systematic working in the Northern, Southern, and Berar Circles during the year were 38,183, 40,156, and 52,521 acres, respectively. Notwithstanding therefore a decrease of 6,069 acres in Berar, there was a satisfactory increase of 11,043 acres in the area subjected to systematic fellings. In addition, 8,608 acres in the Southern Circle were worked under the system known as the thinning of poles after the reservation of the most promising stems The total outturn of major produce rose from 22,0·8,076 cubic feet in 1009-10 to 32,627,467 cubic feet in 1910-11, an increase of 47·7 per cent; the increases in timber and fuel were 12·3 and 57 per cent, respectively. The proportion of the total outturn of major produce removed by Government agency was 4·4 per cent. The total value of minor produce extracted during the year amounted to Rs. 14,06,309. Bamboos were better by Rs. 19,412, all Circles participating in the increase. Grass remained practically stationary, while grazing was better by Rs. 7,617. Other minor produce was worse by Rs. 25,250, decreases of Rs. 10,266 and Rs. 27,464 occurring in the Northern and Southern Circles and an increase of Rs. 12,480 in Berar. The year was a very bad one for lac, and the Conservator, Southern Circle, suggested that departmental dealings in this product should be abandoned, but this suggestion was not accepted, and the system in force in the Bhandara and Raipur Divisions is to be continued.

Financial results.

101. The total revenue of the year was greater by Rs. 57,234 than that of the previous year and the increase was due entirely to the Northern (+ Rs. 51,828) and the Berar (+Rs. 64,654) Circles, for in the Southern Circle there was a decrease of Rs. 59,248. The income derived from the extraction of produce by Government agency fell by Rs 14,813, but rose under the other heads. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 16,36,736, being an increase of Rs. 91,568 over the figures for 1909-10. Of this increase, Rs 44,609 fell under Conservancy and works, being largely attributable to the purchase of a traction engine for the South Chanda Division, while the remainder was due to increased establishment charges, mainly in connection with promotions among Imperial and Provincial Service officers. The surplus fell by Rs. 34,334, a result attributable entirely to the Southern Circle, which worked at a loss of Rs 35,522 as compared with increased surpluses of Rs. 29,255 and Rs. 38,183 in the Northern and Berar Circles, respectively.

MINES AND QUARRIES

5—MINES AND QUARRIES

[Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces for the calendar year 1910, and Part I of the Statistics of British India.]

Collieries.

102. The number of coal mines in active work during the year fell from seven to four. The total output of coal shows only a slight decrease from 238,099 tons to 220,435 tons during the year, but the decrease in the total value from Rs. 10,88,985 to Rs. 8,27,056 was more marked. The Government Colliery at Ballarpur increased its output from 89,253 tons to 95,751, but the expansion of this mine is checked by the fact that the sale of the coal by Government cannot be pushed in the same way as sales by private companies. There was a net profit of Rs. 1,53,510, giving a return of 21·04 per cent on the capital expended to the end of the year. The coal mines gave employment to 2,419 persons.

Manganese mining.

103. The number of manganese quarries coming within the term "mine" as defined in Section 3 (*d*) of the Mines Act rose from 21 to 25 in the year under report. The total quantity of manganese ore extracted was 371,397 tons

MINES AND QUARRIES

as against an outturn of 279,718 tons in the previous year. The increase in the output of manganese ore is ascribed rather to systematic working than to improvement in prices. The valuation of this outturn on the estimates given by Deputy Commissioners works out to Rs. 16,37,071 against Rs. 12,05,383 for the previous year, indicating a value at the mine (*i.e.*, making no allowance for cost of freight) of Rs. 4-6-6 per ton, a figure very slightly in excess of that reported for 1909. Mangan. se mining afforded, as usual, the largest amount of employment, the total number of persons employed being 7,193.

Miscellaneous Commercial activity.

104. In the Jubbulpore District one new limestone quarry was opened at Bistara and one old one was re-opened and another closed at Murwara and Kachgaon, respectively; of the four mines for pottery clay, that at Tikuri, opened in 1909, was not worked. The quarry at Tikaria for fuller's earth continued to be worked, and the extraction of soapstone was continued at Bheraghat, Gowari, and Lalpur in the Jubbulpore District. The output of limestone was 107,331 tons or more than double that of the previous year, but there was a fall in the price from Re. 0-15-4 per ton to Re. 0-10-4. This fall would seem to point to a supply in excess of the demand, but no doubt the development of the manufacture of lime in other parts of India contributed to this effect. Variations in the output of other minerals were insignificant, but 2,000lbs of wolframite valued at Rs. 1,300 were extracted from the Agargaon mine in the Nagpur District, as compared with 450lbs in the previous year. The number of labourers employed in the limestone quarries and in the mines for pottery clay, soapstone, wolframite, and fuller's earth was 2,851. The health and general physical condition of labourers employed in mines was uniformly good, and an outbreak of plague at some of the mines in the Nagpur District was stamped out almost immediately by the vigorous measures taken by the managements concerned. The number of serious accidents decreased from 35 to 11 during the year, but the number of lives lost was the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 6. None of these accidents was due to negligence or other default on the part of the proprietors of the mines, but mainly to carelessness on the part of the workers. There were no prosecutions under the Act. 175 prospecting licenses and 56 mining leases were granted as against 245 and 37 in the previous year.

6—MANUFACTURES

MANUFACTURES

[Report on the working of the Factories Act in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1910, and Part I of Statistics of British India.]

Number of factories. Employees. Health. Accidents.

105. Twenty-nine factories were added to the register during the year, but the number actually working rose only from 340 to 353. The increase was not a real one, but only represented factories previously in existence which were brought under the provisions of the Act for the first time. The total number of operatives employed fell from 40,364 to 39,421. The decrease was due to the short outturn of the cotton crops of the year. The sanitary conditions of the factories were everywhere said to be suitable, and such defects as were brought to notice were promptly remedied. The health of the operatives has everywhere been good. The number of accidents was 176, an increase of four over that of last year. The high total for the year is mainly due to the figures from the Gun Carriage Factory at Jubbulpore. The nature of these accidents, however, shows that this is merely the result of very careful supervision: they include petty contusions which would probably elicit no attention under private management.

Wages.

106. The fall in the demand for factory labour did not effect any general reduction of the wages paid either to skilled or unskilled workers. Owing to plague labour was at a premium, which counterbalanced, and in some parts, such as the Amraoti District of Berar, more than counterbalanced, any falling off in the demand. Moreover, the high prices of cotton militated against a fall in wages. The competition for efficient workmen in Bengal and Bombay is a partial explanation of the rise in wages in the Jubbulpore District, and complaints were frequent that skilled labour was not available at reasonable rates.

Prosecutions. Supervision.

107. The number of prosecutions on all accounts was 34, of which 29 resulted in convictions. The corresponding figures for 1909 were 12 and 6. The shortness of the adult labour supply, combined with the high rate of wages, continued to encourage the systematic evasion of the law in regard

to the employment of women and children. There is, however, no reason to suppose that the increase in the number of penalties inflicted indicates deterioration in management. On the contrary, it evidences a closer supervision and control by the Inspecting staff, which must necessarily encourage a higher standard of factory administration in general. The total number of inspections rose from 1,352 to 1,512, of which 511 were made by Provincial Inspectors. The number of factories left uninspected in the combined Provinces fell from 47 to 24.

TRADE.

7—TRADE

[Report on the Rail-borne Traffic of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March 1911; Part II of the Statistics of British India, and Volume of Prices and Wages in India.]

Character of the harvest. Prices. Total traffic.

108. The climatic conditions of the Province were favourable as in the previous year. Owing to the appearance of Halley's Comet and the consequent prophecies of coming disaster, large stocks of food-grains were held up and prices therefore remained comparatively cheap in spite of the large exports which took place. The prices of cotton, linseed, and *til* ruled high owing to external demand. The average price per maund for the year fell in the case of wheat by 20 per cent, of rice by 8, of juar by 21, and of gram by 22. The price of cotton rose 33 per cent, linseed 35, and *til* 15. The total volume of trade increased by four million maunds, while the total value decreased by $13\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs.

Imports.

109. The bulk of imports decreased by 1,409,000 maunds, or 7 per cent, while the value increased by Rs. 61,51,000, or 6 per cent. The principal decreases are noticeable under the heads "Food-grains," "Salt," and "Wrought iron." The imports of grain and pulse decreased by 642,000 maunds, or 31 per cent. The quantity of salt imported decreased by 2,277,000 maunds, or 49 per cent. The imports of 1909-10 were abnormally large. That year was a favourable one for marriages, and stocks were replenished. Metals showed a decrease of 44 per cent, which was mainly under wrought iron and machinery. The imports under "Dyes and Tans," "Fodder," "Hides and Skins," and "Oil-seeds" also decreased. On the other hand, the imports of "Coal and Coke," "Raw Cotton," "Hemp and other fibres," "Lac," "Oils," "Wood," "Tobacco," "Tea," and "Sugar" showed an increase. The quantity of coal and coke imported rose by 27,247 tons, or 12 per cent. More than half was for railway purposes, the remainder being for mills and other industrial works. Imports were chiefly from Bengal, and the largest receiving blocks were Berar and Jubbulpore. Imports of manufactured cotton, which had risen largely in the previous year, resumed their ordinary level. The imports under Sugar, Oil (chiefly kerosene), and Tea increased by 5, 9, and 10 per cent, respectively. The imports of spices remained nearly stationary. There is an increase of 750,563 maunds this year under the head "Railway Plant and Rolling-stock," consequent on the extension of railway communication.

Exports.

110. Exports rose by 5,456,000 maunds, or 18 per cent, in weight, while their value decreased by Rs. 74,79,000, or 4 per cent. The reason for this is that, apart from food-grains, the main increases are in bulky commodities like manganese, stone, and lime, while in the decreases is included a large item under the valuable article raw cotton. Exports fell in the cases of "Manufactured Cotton," "Dyes and Tans," "Fodder," "Hides and Skins," "Hemp and other fibres," "Lac," "Oils" and "Oil-seeds." Nagpur is the chief exporting block for cotton goods. Exports of coal and coke, which were sent chiefly to Bombay, increased by 31 per cent. The exports of metals rose by 49 per cent, manganese, as usual, constituting the principal item, with a total of 519,000 tons. There were increases under the heads "Railway Plant," "Salt," and "Wood." The last-named article was exported chiefly from the Nerbudda block. Exports of grain and pulse rose from 4,422,000 maunds to 6,644,000 maunds, or by 50 per cent. The increase was most conspicuous in the case of wheat, which alone contributed more than half of the total quantity exported. This was due to large stocks from the previous year and to favourable seasons. There were increased exports of linseed, rape and mustard, but a heavy drop in exports of cotton seeds and a smaller decrease in *til*. The quantity of raw cotton exported fell by 37 per cent. Exports of hides and skins and oil-seeds fell by 23 per cent and 22 per cent, respectively. There was also a fall of 40,000 maunds, or 16 per cent, under the head "Fodder," largely due to the poorer cotton crop in Berar, from where most of the oil-cake required for foreign consumption is derived.

8—PUBLIC WORKS

[Finance Accounts of the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department, Central Provinces, for the year 1910-1911, and Parts III and IV (*b*) of the Statistics of British India.]

IMPERIAL CIVIL WORKS

Imperial civil works.

111. With the exception of a Sub-Post Office at Janjgir, no Imperial Works of any importance were undertaken during the year under report. Certain additions and alterations to All Saints' Church at Nagpur, which were sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 73,480, were taken in hand; an Imperial grant of Rs. 7,000 was spent, as well as Rs. 3,361 from funds collected by contribution.

PROVINCIAL WORKS

Provincial works.

112. The expenditure to relieve distress in 1907-08 had depleted Provincial balances, and as a result only Rs. 55,61,690 could be allotted to Provincial Works. Of this sum Rs. 24,51,151 were spent on Original Works, the balance being spent on repairs to existing roads and buildings, establishment, and tools and plant. The principal works carried out during the year are detailed below.

Forest buildings.

113. A bungalow with out-houses for the Assistant Conservator of Forests at Balaghat was in course of construction, and expenditure of Rs. 3,613 was incurred against an estimate of Rs. 7,928, while the quarters for the Divisional Forest Officer at Akola taken in hand during 1909-10 were completed at a total cost of Rs. 14,630, of which Rs 4,643 were spent during the year.

Administration Land revenue buildings.

114. The construction of the Office of the Commissioner of Settlements, Nagpur, which was in progress in 1909-10, was completed at a cost of Rs. 1,01,484 against an estimate of Rs. 83,607, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 29,314. Three new tahsils were started during the year, at Patan, Sausar, and Bhainsdehi, of which the latter was practically completed with an expenditure of Rs. 33,603. Minor alterations were carried out at Burhanpur and additional quarters were also provided at Harsud. Quarters for Revenue peons and mazkuries were constructed at Baloda Bazar, and at Drug Tahsildar's and Naib-Tahsildar's quarters were very nearly completed. The construction of new tahsil buildings at Katol, Bhandara, and Balapur was pushed on. The tahsil building at Saoner was completed at a total cost of Rs. 44,378. Rupees 5,371 were spent for constructing an additional block for the tahsili at Baihar. Materials for the Ryotwari Naib-Tahsildar's quarters at Garchiroli were collected at a cost of Rs. 715.

Excise buildings.

115. Certain improvements to the Distillery buildings at Bhandara, Balaghat, and Wardha were carried out at a total cost of Rs. 5,864, and Rs. 1,736 were spent on quarters for four Excise peons. Bonded warehouses at Balapur and Daryapur were in progress, and that at Amraoti was completed. Quarters for a Sub-Inspector of Excise and a Veterinary Assistant were constructed at Chikalda. Certain minor alterations were carried out to the Sadar Distillery at Bilaspur and to the Excise buildings at Badnur, Sausar, and Chhindwara. Quarters were constructed for a chowkidar at Gadarwara.

Residences for Local Governments and Secretariat Offices.

116. Certain additions and alterations to Government House, Nagpur, were carried out at a cost of Rs. 8,486. The new Secretariat building was completed, the total expenditure on the main building being Rs. 9,07,275 against an estimate of Rs. 8,75,732. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 85,053. An expenditure of Rs. 4,526 was incurred against an estimate of Rs. 9,162 for constructing a Litho Press for the Public Works Department. Provision for fire-protection and electric installations at the new Secretariat was made at an expenditure of Rs 15,546 and Rs. 56,996 against estimates of Rs. 16,767 and Rs. 62,360, respectively. Iron record racks were also provided in the new Secretariat building, at a cost of Rs. 7,640. The wrought-iron railings round the area of the new Secretariat building and other Government offices, and certain approach roads to Public buildings at Nagpur, were completed at a total cost of Rs. 56,972 and Rs. 23,041 against estimates of Rs. 58,180 and Rs. 21,197, the expenditure for the year being Rs. 3,967 and Rs. 9,935, respectively. The construction of a Ball Room at Pachmarhi and

re-erection of the Plant House, begun in the previous year, were practically brought to completion, and certain minor improvements were carried out to the out-houses and Tennis Courts at the Residency. Quarters were also provided for the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner's Chauffeur.

Miscellaneous.

117. The two bungalows purchased at Pachmarhi last year were repaired, improved, and furnished as Circuit Houses at a total outlay of Rs. 54,890. A bungalow with land was acquired as a site for a new General Post Office at Nagpur at a cost of Rs 13,941. This sum was paid from Provincial funds, as the site is to be exchanged for that of the Postmaster-General's Office and compound, acquired for Rs. 32,000 from Imperial funds during the year 1909-10.

Agriculture.

118. The construction of the Agricultural Laboratory and of two bungalows for the Department was begun at Nagpur. The buildings of the Experimental Farm at Akola were completed at a cost of Rs. 56,120. The construction of quarters for the farm buildings at Powarkhera was continued and nearly completed, and some petty additions were made to the Veterinary Dispensary at Pachmarhi.

Educational.

119. The construction of a new Normal School at Nagpur was continued, and a sum of Rs. 14,876 was spent during the year, the total expenditure being Rs. 17,893 against an estimate of Rs. 51,450. The old Residency building at Nagpur was handed over to the Council of the Morris College, and its conversion into a College was commenced, the expenditure being Rs. 4,791 against an estimate of Rs. 6,914. A hostel for the students of this College was begun, and a sum of Rs. 11,679 spent against an estimate of Rs. 54,270. The construction of a school for girls at the Rukmini Temple in Nagpur City was sanctioned for Rs. 5,446, and the site acquired at a cost of Rs. 1,369. The construction of a High School building, with a hostel and Assistant Master's quarters, was started at Balaghat, and sums of Rs. 7,900 and Rs. 3,958, respectively, were spent. Certain additions and alteration to the High School at Amraoti were in progress, and a sum of Rs. 20,882 was spent thereon against an estimate of Rs. 37,676. A sum of Rs. 12,546 was also spent on certain additions, alterations, and petty improvements to schools and hostels in the East Berar Division.

Law and Justice. High Courts and District Courts.

120. The construction of a new Civil Court House at Bhandara, commenced in 1909-10, is nearing completion, the expenditure to date being Rs. 53,504. Certain additions and alterations to the District Court at Bhandara are almost finished, the total expenditure being Rs. 12,095. At Yeotmal, the conversion into Civil Courts of the Circuit House and improvements to the District Court House, commenced in 1909-10, are in progress, the total expenditure incurred to the end of 1910-11 being Rs. 15,774 and Rs. 19,470, respectively. The conversion into a Circuit House of the bungalow of the District Superintendent of Police at Yeotmal was completed at a total expenditure of Rs. 5,873. Certain additions to the Temporary Judicial Court at Wardha were carried out at a cost of Rs. 785; and an expenditure of Rs. 10,528 was incurred on new sheds, and the provision of flagstone flooring in certain District Courts in the East Berar Division. The construction of the new Judicial Court at Khandwa was pushed on rapidly, the total expenditure incurred being nearly half a lakh. Iron racks were provided for the Judicial record-rooms at Hoshangabad and for the Revenue record-room at Mandla. The new Circuit House at Mandla was completed at a total cost of Rs. 16,717. New quarters for Extra-Assistant Commissioners at Mandla and at Bilaspur were commenced, and certain minor improvements were carried out to the Extra-Assistant Commissioner's quarters at Drug. The construction of five new bungalows at Nagpur was begun, and expenditure of Rs. 23,937 incurred against sanctioned estimates aggregating Rs. 1,14,361. The conversion of the Settlement Office at Chanda into a house for the Deputy Commissioner, and the construction of quarters for Extra-Assistant Commissioners at Nagpur and Akola, were taken in hand, and Rs. 7,035, Rs. 6,468, and Rs. 5,168, respectively, spent.

Jails.

121. Extensions to the Under-trial Ward at Yeotmal Jail were begun, and a portion of the wall of the Jail at Wardha was renewed. About Rs. 10,000 were expended on Jail officials' quarters at Jubbulpore, Raipur, and Khandwa.

122. The total expenditure during the year on Original Works for Police buildings was Rs. 3,66,843. Offices for the District Superintendents of Police at Nagpur and Balaghat were completed at a cost of Rs. 25,545 and Rs. 12,784, while an expenditure of Rs. 10,496 was incurred on the Office at Buldana. A sum of Rs. 4,033 was spent on certain additions to the Office of the District Superintendent of Police at Bhandara. The conversion of the quarters of the Executive Engineer at Yeotmal into quarters for the District Superintendent of Police was completed at a total cost of Rs. 4,867. Quarters for a Police Inspector and for Police at Kamptee were in progress, with expenditure of Rs. 7,184 and Rs. 3,002, respectively. Police Station Houses and quarters at Ashti and Manpur were completed at a total cost of Rs. 13,537 and Rs. 12,629. Rs. 4,518 were spent on the remodelling of quarters in the Police Lines at Wardha. Messrs. Ralli Brothers' Office at Wardha, with its compound, was acquired at a cost of Rs. 15,000 for the construction of a Town Police Station and quarters. The Reserve Lines at Buldana were in progress, and Rs. 10,705 was spent. The City Kotwali at Akola was completed at a total cost of Rs. 27,737. The construction of Police Station Houses at Buldana, Dhar, Pisgaon, Dharni, Sirpur, Boregaon, Pinjar, and Assegaon was in progress during the year, and in all Rs. 41,089 were spent. Quarters for the Police at Tamgaon, Yeotmal, Chandur Railway, Nandgaon-Quazi, Wadki, and Amraoti were in progress, and Rs. 67,991 were spent. In the Jubbulpore Division, quarters were built in Jubbulpore Cantonment and at Lindori in Mandla District for Inspectors and Constables at a total cost of Rs. 15,884. The construction of an Office for the District Superintendent of Police at Seoni and of a Station House and quarters at Etawah in Saugor was also taken up, the total expenditure being Rs. 11,000. In the Chhattisgarh Division, a Station House and quarters were completed at Bhatapara at a cost of Rs. 5,681, and a commencement was made with the construction of a new Station House and quarters at Janjgir, and additions to the lines at Bilaspur, with a total outlay of Rs. 14,658. In the Nerbudda Division, a Station House and quarters at Dularia, a Station House at Rahatgaon, and Sergeants' and Sub-Inspectors' quarters at Pachmarhi were completed at a total cost of Rs. 16,125. Station Houses and quarters at Sohpur and Chipabar were also undertaken and Rs. 15,600 expended. At Khandwa a new kotwali and quarters were begun with an expenditure of Rs. 10,000, and a sum of Rs. 8,000 was spent on the construction of certain quarters at Bhainsdehi. **Police.**

123. A bungalow at Nagpur for the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Central Provinces, and the extension to the Civil Surgeon's bungalow at Wardha were completed at a total cost of Rs. 31,791 and Rs. 2,350. The construction of a II Class Branch Dispensary at Dharni was in progress. At Hoshangabad a small record-room and tent godown were added to the Bowie Hospital. Work was done on two mortuaries. The extensions to the Lunatic Asylum at Nagpur were completed at a cost of Rs. 59,636 against an estimate of Rs. 58,295, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 5,080. **Medical. Hospitals, Dispensaries and Asylums.**

124. Rs. 4,979 were spent on Sub-Registrars' Offices in East Berar. **Registration.**

125. The construction of a general tent godown at Nagpur was begun and Rs. 2,842 were spent Quarters for the Sub-Divisional Officer at Yeotmal were completed, while those at Baihar were in progress A Bungalow and Office for the Executive Engineer at Chhindwara were nearly completed at a total outlay of nearly Rs. 30,000. **Public Works Department buildings.**

126. The total outlay on communications amounted to Rs. 24,05,886, of which Rs. 9,44,167 were spent on Original Works, and the balance on repairs. The construction of the Kailod Railway Feeder road, and the extension of the road from Amballa Hill to Khindsi, were in progress, and Rs. 6,428 and Rs. 2,241 were spent during the year. Widening the bridge over the Pili river on the Great Northern road was completed at a total cost of Rs. 8,760. Remodelling the causeway over the Mahadula nalla, and the construction of certain other culverts and causeways on the Nagpur-Chhindwara road, were completed at a total cost of Rs. 7,312 and Rs. 32,955, respectively. The remodelling of the culverts and causeways on the Nagpur-Katol road was in progress, and Rs. 2,719 were spent. **Communications.**

The construction of the section of the Nagpur-Amraoti road in the Nagpur District, estimated to cost Rs. 3,77,319, was started, and an expenditure of Rs. 46,390 incurred. Raising from Class II to Class I of the Waraseoni-Katangi and Lamtha-Baihar roads, and of portion of the Great Eastern road, was completed at a total cost of Rs. 9,037, Rs. 1,05,480, and Rs. 6,132, respectively. The bridges and culverts on the Kharda-Pauni road were completed at a cost of Rs. 20,376; and those on the Gondia-Arjuni road were in progress, the expenditure being Rs. 53,750. The construction of the Kirnapur-Lanji, Amgaon-Lanji, and Hatta-Piparjeri roads was practically completed at a total expenditure of Rs. 51,164, Rs. 32,312, and Rs. 21,809, respectively. Work on the Baihar-Topla road was still in progress. The earthwork and bridging of the first and second sections were practically completed at a total cost of Rs. 85,560 and Rs. 1,03,837, respectively. The third and fourth sections of the Chanda-Allapalli road were still in progress, and sums of Rs. 99,561 and Rs. 39,638, respectively, were expended. The total expenditure incurred during the year in the completion of waterways, earthwork, &c., on the Allapalli-Sironcha road amounted to Rs. 67,618. The Dhamtari-Moorumgaon road was completed at a total cost of Rs. 1,04,362. The work of raising in class the Wardha-Anji road was completed at a total cost of Rs. 27,615, while that of the Wardha-Waigaon road was continued and Rs. 14,402 were spent. The last two miles of the Darwha-Digras road have not yet been surfaced, but this road is otherwise open to traffic; a total expenditure of Rs. 77,924 was incurred against an estimate of Rs. 96,889. The construction of the Darwha-Karinja road was practically finished at a total cost of Rs. 1,15,497 against an estimate of Rs. 1,22,055. The Sambadho and the Digras-Pusad roads were in progress, the total outlay being Rs. 1,18,071 and Rs. 36,188 against estimates of Rs. 1,18,426 and Rs. 89,968, respectively. A sum of Rs. 58,547 was spent on stone-metalling certain roads in Berar. The road works taken up during the last scarcity were practically brought to a close during the year. Of the new works put in hand during the year, the principal ones were the raising in class of the road connecting Jubbulpore head-quarters with the new tahsil at Patan, on which an outlay of Rs. 12,000 was incurred, and the construction of a new 1st Class road from Khandwa towards Bhamgarh, which will ultimately link up the head-quarters of Nimar with the tahsil at Harsud, and on which a similar amount was spent. A lakh of rupees was laid out on pushing on with the utmost vigour the Saugor-Cawnpur, Badnur-Ellichpur, and Dindori-Amarkantak roads, and it is hoped that in another year the completion of these valuable through communications will be finally effected. The operations on the second section of the Dhamtari-Moorumgaon road were brought to a termination with a total expenditure of Rs. 52,692. The construction of a bridge over the Nerbudda at Mandla, to which a sum of Rs. 42,000 was devoted, is being vigorously pushed on, and should be completed before the rains of 1912. Two new bridges were taken in hand, one across the Gour river and the other across the Jam, with a view to relieve traffic on the Jubbulpore-Mandla and the Nagpur-Chhindwara roads, respectively; and the former was rapidly completed in spite of difficulties raised by the local contractors. Accommodation for travellers was provided at the Baloda Bazar Tahsil as well as at the new Tahsil at Patan, the Inspection Bungalow at the former place being fully, and at the latter very nearly, completed, the total outlay during the year on these bungalows being Rs. 11,000.

Arboriculture. 127. A total expenditure of Rs. 64,338 was incurred on tree-planting and maintenance of avenues.

Miscellaneous Public improvements. 128. Two new Recreation grounds, at a cost of Rs. 16,391 against an estimate of Rs. 20,481, were laid out at Nagpur.

Water-supply. 129. No works of any importance were carried out from Provincial Funds under the head of Water-supply.

District Funds. 130. The raising of the Ambajheri-Hingna road from Class II-B to Class I-A was completed at a total cost of Rs. 41,603, against an estimate of Rs. 47,154; the expenditure during the year being Rs. 8,863. The work is now fully

PUBLIC WORKS.

completed up to 7½ miles and metal has been collected up to the 9th mile. The construction of a Class II-A road from Lanji to Bijagarh was commenced, and Rs. 7,640 spent against an estimate of Rs. 78,900; the work of raising in class the Wardha-Deoli road was continued, with an expenditure of Rs. 5,380, bringing the total expenditure to Rs. 23,011. The raising in class of the Gadarwara-Sainkhera road in Narsinghpur and the construction of the Badnur-Ranipur road in Betul was continued, and the construction of a submerged bridge over the Hagni nalla on the Silondi-Sehora road in Jubbulpore and of the Malthone-Khimlasa road in Saugor as Class I was started. The construction of the Hindustani School at Murtizapur was completed at a cost of Rs. 4,499.

Contributions.

131. The Gorewara Water-works, Nagpur, were in progress, and Rs. 4,87,257 were spent during the year; the total expenditure being Rs. 6,48,464 against an estimate of 10 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 27,986 was spent against an estimate of Rs. 63,715 on the construction of the Craddock High School at Wardha, and on the collection of materials for its hostel. The construction of a new dispensary, with staff quarters, at Karinja was completed at a total cost of Rs. 10,479 and a II Class dispensary at Ra'legaon was begun, the expenditure being Rs. 1,061. Surveys of Masod and Wadali Tanks are in progress, and Rs. 425 have been spent. The construction of a Dharamsala in Jubbulpore, in memory of the late Raja Gokuldass, was practically completed, the total outlay being Rs. 27,290. A sum of Rs. 38,938 was expended on replacing the 9" diameter stoneware main of the Seoni Water-works by iron-pipes, and Rs. 1,586 were also spent on improvements to the Babaria reservoir, which is the source of supply of the same water-works. The work of surveying and preparing projects for the drainage of Jubbulpore City was proceeded with by Messrs. Lane-Brown and Hewlett, Civil Engineers, the expenditure incurred during the year being Rs. 10,000. Three Government wards were provided in the Leper Asylum at Chandkhuri, in the Bilaspur District, at a total cost of Rs. 12,862.

Imperial. 35—Protective Irrigation Works.

132. A sum of Rs. 23,561 was expended on the surveys of roads in connection with the famine programmes during the year.

Imperial. 41—Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure.

133. An expenditure of Rs. 71 was incurred in connection with the demarcation of the Khandwa-Akola-Basim Railway.

Tools and Plant.

134. An expenditure of Rs. 78,083 was incurred under this head, of which Rs. 10,177 were spent on the purchase of steam road rollers.

9—IRRIGATION

IRRIGATION

[Brief Note on Irrigation work done in the Central Provinces during the year 1910-11 for the Irrigation portion of the Public Works Department Annual Administration Report, and Statistics of British India, Part III—Commercial Services.]

Area under irrigation.

135. The monsoon set in early and there was only one break of importance which occurred in July. In the face of this exceptionally favourable season the area brought under irrigation was 25,358 acres against 37,635 acres in the previous year, which, however, was the highest figure yet attained. The fairly considerable area actually irrigated during the year confirms the opinion that irrigation will be freely resorted to even in years of the most favourable rainfall when the cultivators realize that one or two waterings during breaks are well worth the water-rates charged.

Major and Minor Works.

136. With the exception of the Mahakari Project in the Balaghat District, the investigation of the protective irrigation works on the programme approved by the Government of India was completed. The Mahanaddi and Wainganga Canal projects were submitted to the Government of India for sanction, which has since been received. Both these projects now work out as productive works and are of a very great protective value. The projects for the Kattangjheri tank in the Balaghat District and Chorkamara and Bodulkasa tanks in the Bhandara District are ready for submission to the Government of India.

The Asola-Mendha tank, which was started as a protective irrigation work, is now classed as a productive irrigation work with the sanction of the Secretary of State. The revised estimate for the Ramtek reservoir was also sanctioned during the year by the Secretary of State. Jamunia tank in Balaghat and Naleshwar tank in Chanda are new works sanctioned by the Government of India. The work on these two projects and the Tandula Canal was chiefly preliminary. The breach in the bund of the Asola-Mendha tank was closed, and irrigation is now feasible from the first twenty-five miles of the main channel. Of the remaining 7 works under construction, 6 have been practically completed. There also were 62 minor tanks and extensions in progress.

Expenditure.

137. The expenditure on productive irrigation works was Rs. 1,39,245 against a grant of Rs. 1,40,000. On protective irrigation works Rs. 11,11,849 were spent against a grant of Rs. 12,75,300. On minor works Rs 4,53,536 were spent against a grant of Rs. 4,50,000, and on major works Rs. 29,600 against one of Rs. 35,000, while from contribution Rs. 16,190 were expended.

Revenue.

138. The water-rates on the tanks in the Raipur and Drug Districts were raised from Rs. 1-4-0 and Rs. 2 to Rs. 1-12-0 and Rs 2-8-0 for agreement villages and non-agreement villages, respectively. This of course reduced the number of agreements considerably. The rates for the current year, 1911-12, have been raised to Rs. 2 and Rs. 3, respectively, and 41 villages signed the agreement against 39 villages during the year under report. The total of water-rates assessed was Rs. 54,018 or Rs. 67,838, including miscellaneous revenue, and the total revenue realised from all sources was Rs. 89,374. A very large sum represents the collections for the previous year which were not credited to the correct head. Chhattisgarh Division continues to contribute more than half the revenue from protective irrigation. The Khairbanda and Chandpur tanks in the Bhandara District should do well now that their distributaries on both the banks have been nearly completed and can be used for irrigation.

General.

139. With the scanty staff at its disposal, the Agricultural Department continued demonstrations under irrigation works. Proposals to augment the staff to meet the growing demand for experiments and demonstrations under large works scattered over the length and breadth of the Province are under consideration, and experimental farms are being started near Tharsa Railway Station under the Ramtek reservoir and under the Jubbulpore tank, while the Co-operative Credit Societies are helping in arranging to finance the cultivators. The co-operation of these two departments with the Irrigation Branch ought to be of great help in accelerating the development of irrigation.

CHAPTER V

REVENUE AND FINANCE

[Further details and statistics will be found in Part IV (*b*) of the Statistics of British India.]

GROSS REVENUE.

140. The following statement compares the receipts and closing balances under the various heads for the years 1909-10 and 1910-11 :— **Gross Revenue.**

Heads.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing balances.	
	1909-10.	1910-11.	1909-10.	1910-11.	1909-10.	1910-11.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Revenue ..	1,04,71,121	1,09,20,267	55,90,689	60,94,763	...	...
Provincial Revenue ...	2,47,09,130	2,44,43,611	2,39,87,375	2 41,,86,325	24,91,658	27,48,944
Deposits of Local Funds—						
District Funds .	24,71,214	24,46,292	23,97,845	22.11.586	8,74,680	11,09,386
Jaglia and Local Cess Funds.	5,24,891	5,18,182	5,43,163	5,19,645	2,94,573	2,93,110
Other Local Funds ...	7,08 100	8,71,977	7,91,298	8,66,876	3,68.022	3,73,123
Municipal Funds ...	21,29,172	22,07,283	20,01.985	21,91,809	7,23,166	7,38,640
Total ...	4.11,03,628	4,14,07,612	3,53,12,355	3,60,71,004	47,52,099	52,63,203

(*a*) REVENUE AND FINANCE—IMPERIAL

141. The Imperial Revenue and Expenditure for 1910-11 were more than that of 1909-10 by Rs. 4,49,146 and Rs. 5,04,074, respectively. The heads under which striking differences occur are given in the following table :— **Imperial Revenue.**

Revenue and Receipts.	Actual.		Expenditure.	Actual.	
	1909-10.	1910-11.		1909-10.	1910-11.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue. { Proper ...	93,87,336	90,65,564	Interest on other obligations.	14,253	29,643
{ Adjustment ..	—62,89,270	—61,66,500			
Opium ...	4,45,967	4.86,336	Scientific, &c., Departments...	15,801	46,409
Stamps ...	15,99,680	17,62,105	Protective Irrigation Works..	14,35.487	11,42,069
Excise ..	34 43,738	37,95,363	Major Works ...	23,106	50,034
Assessed Taxes ..	2,91,048	3,25,269	Civil Works ...	41,202	† 8,26,383
Irrigation ...	...		Other heads ...	40,60,750	39,91,225
Major Works ...	31,580	57,701			
Civil Works ...	4,858	*28,017			
Other heads ...	15,56,175	15,66,612			
Total ...	1,04,71,121	1,09,20,267	Total ..	55,90,689	60,94,763

* Includes Rs. 23,010 on account of Central India and Hyderabad.
† Includes Rs. 7,60 752 do. do. do.

REVENUE

142. LAND REVENUE.—*Imperial share one-half.*—There were larger collections of Land Revenue in 1909-10 than in the year 1910-11, as recoveries of arrears of land revenue, which it was expected would be realised in the latter year, were effected in the former.

143. Under "Adjustment" there were elements of both decrease and increase. In 1909-10, Rs. 7,09,000 were received as an assignment from Imperial Funds to close the Provincial balance of 1910-11 with the prescribed minimum of Rs. 10 lakhs, while there was also a trifling refund to Imperial of Rs. 230 adjusted in excess ; against this in 1910-11 was the grant of Rs. 6,00,000 to Provincial for Education and Sanitation, and a contribution from Provincial to Imperial of Rs. 14,000 on account of the new scheme of taxation. The difference therefore between the assignments of the two years is Rs. 7,08,770—5,86,000= Rs. 1,22,770.

144. OPIUM.—Increase of population and better times account for the small but steady increase of revenue under this head.

145. STAMPS.—The increase occurs under Court-fee Stamps, and is mainly due to the expiration in August 1910 of the year of grace allowed by Act IX of 1908 in respect of the limitation in certain suits for foreclosure and sale.

146. EXCISE.—The figures of 1910-11 were more than those of the year before owing to the recovery of Excise revenue from the effects of the periods of depression caused by scarcity and the occurrence of the *singhast* year. The subsidence of the temperance movement in Berar also contributed to this result.

147. ASSESSED TAXES.—The appearance for the first time on the Civil books of income-tax on salaries of officials in the Public Works Department as well as the opening of new mills and the construction of the Itarsi-Nagpur Railway account for the increase under this head.

148. IRRIGATION—MAJOR WORKS.—The improvement in 1910-11 is due to the development of irrigation and enhancement of rates.

149. CIVIL WORKS.—The increase is due to the receipts from Central India and Hyderabad being shown, as they form part of the general accounts rendered by the Comptroller, Central Provinces, from 1910-11.

EXPENDITURE.

150. INTEREST ON OTHER OBLIGATIONS.—The rise in the actuals of 1910-11 is partly due to the transfer to the Civil books of the interest payable on account of employés of the Public Works Department who subscribe to Provident Funds and partly to increasing accumulation of deposits in the General Provident Fund.

151. SCIENTIFIC, &C., DEPARTMENTS.—The Census expenditure accounts for the rise in 1910-11.

152. PROTECTIVE IRRIGATION WORKS.—There was less outlay in 1910-11 on all the tank projects, except on the Tandula Canal and the Khairabunda Tank.

153. IRRIGATION MAJOR WORKS.—An adjustment on account of the Imperial share of interest on debt for Irrigation works in the Central Provinces was included in the accounts of these Provinces for the first time in 1910-11.

154. CIVIL WORKS.—The increase in 1910-11 is due to the expenditure of Central India and Hyderabad having been shown here. This expenditure has not been included in the accounts rendered by the Comptroller, Central Provinces, previous to 1910-11.

(*b*) REVENUE AND FINANCE—PROVINCIAL

Provincial Revenue.

155. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1909-10 and 1910-11. The details of the major heads under which striking differences have occurred are given separately :—

Revenue.	Actuals. 1909-10.	Actuals. 1910-11.	Expenditure.	Actuals. 1909-10.	Actuals. 1910-11.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue—Proper ...	93,87,335	90,65,564	Refunds and Drawbacks ...	65,263	36,724
Land Revenue—Adjustment ..	62,89,270	61,66,500	Land Revenue ..	38,16,408	30,01,820
Stamps ...	15,99,689	17,62,104	General Administration ..	8,42,364	8,93,760
Excise ...	34,43,739	37,95,364	Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	24,75,896	25,05,725
Assessed Taxes ...	2,73,602	3,06,693	Law and Justice—Jails ...	6,14,104	5,67,817
Registration ...	2,96,749	3,22,792	Police ..	31,05,058	32,26,671
Law and Justice—Jails ...	2,55,980	1,99,821	Education ...	16,55,200	17,26,087
Miscellaneous ...	6,88,715	2,78,258	Medical ..	7,98,349	8,73,546
Other heads ...	24,74,051	25,46,515	Superannuation Allowances..	6,15,979	6,76,899
			Stationery ...	3,27,458	4,50,161
			Minor Works and Navigation.	4,89,887	4,53,536
			Civil Works ...	60,27,432	57,45,570
Total ...	2,47,09,130	2,44,43,611	Other heads ...	31,53,977	31,28,009
Opening Balance ...	17,69,903	24,91,658	Total ...	2,39,87,375	2,41,86,325
			Closing Balance ...	24,91,658	27,48,944
GRAND TOTAL ...	2,64,79,033	2,69,35,269	GRAND TOTAL ...	2,64,79,033	2,69,35,269

REVENUE

Registration.—The rates of registration fees in Berar were enhanced to the level of those in the Central Provinces. This has caused a rise in the receipts of 1910-11.

Law and Justice—Jails.—The Jail receipts in 1910-11 were less than those in 1909-10, as the Supply and Transport Department did not take over Jail manufactures to the extent contracted for.

Miscellaneous.—The greater portion of receipts from the sale of weavers' cloth during the last famine appeared in the year 1909-10.

EXPENDITURE

Refunds and Drawbacks.—The increase in 1909-10 was largely due to refunds made to liquor contractors.

Land Revenue.—The comparatively heavy expenditure on account of settlement establishments in 1910-11 accounts for the increase.

General Administration.—The bulk of the increase occurs under "Civil Secretariat," and is chiefly due to unusually large expenditure incurred on the employment of officers on special duty.

Law and Justice—Courts of Law—The increase in 1910-11 is mainly due to the appointment of an additional temporary Sub-Judge and to a member of the Indian Civil Service having held such an appointment.

Law and Justice – Jails.—The small number of Jail population, the cheapness of food-supplies, as well as a falling off in the demand for Jail products, account for the decrease.

Police.—The increase is due mainly to progress in filling up the establishment to sanctioned strength.

Education.—Grants were made more liberally to various institutions, and the Training School at Jubbulpore was converted into a College.

Medical.—Progress was made in the organization of the Sanitation Department, and fresh grants to District Boards for Sanitation were made.

Superannuation Allowances.—The additions to the pension list sanctioned during 1910-11 were abnormally heavy, while the lapse was normal.

Stationery and Printing.—The increase occurred almost entirely under "Stationery supplied from Central Stores," and was caused by the payment in 1910-11 on account of certain stores indented for in the three years 1907 to 1909.

Minor Works and Navigation and Civil Works.—There was less outlay on account of Minor Works and Navigation and Civil Works.

CHAPTER VI

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

DETAILS OF CENSUS

1—DETAILS OF CENSUS

Arrangements for the Census.

156. The sixth general Census of the Province was taken on the night of 10th March 1911. It was during the last decade that the amalgamation of the Central Provinces and Berar took place, and for the first time both these areas were under the same Superintendent. The officer appointed to superintend the operations joined his appointment on 1st April 1910. As usual, the first steps taken were the division of the districts and States into suitable Census areas, and the appointment of the necessary Census staff. Patwari circles were taken as units of area in all British Central Provinces districts; but in Berar, where Patwaris have no definite circle of jurisdiction, villages were grouped together into arbitrarily constituted Census circles, subject to considerations of population and area. There was Settlement going on in six districts of the Central Provinces, but the Settlement Commissioner was able to spare the Patwari staff, except in the case of one tahsil, where schoolmasters and non-officials took their place. The majority of the Charge Superintendents were Revenue Inspectors, sometimes assisted by officials of the same grade from other Departments, where the charges were too big for one man to manage. The higher officer of the district staff constituted the inspecting agency over the Charge Superintendents. The preliminary records were thoroughly checked by them. Almost the whole number of enumerators were non-officials, and, as a rule, they did their work with interest and energy. There were, however, a few sporadic cases, chiefly in towns, where unwillingness to do the work gratuitously was shown. There was very keen competition in communicating Provincial totals, and one district (Balaghat) reported its totals to the Census Commissioner and the Census Superintendent by 2 p. m. of the 11th March. All the totals were duly communicated within the prescribed period of a week to the Census Commissioner. The final totals which have now been obtained agree with the Provincial totals very closely in all cases, the largest difference this time not amounting to even one-tenth of that in the previous Census.

Arrangements in Feudatory States.

157. In the Feudatory States arrangements were made similar to those in British districts, except where no regular Land Record Staff existed, in which case arrangements were made as in Berar. In the Chota-Nagpur States transferred to these Provinces within the last decade, the arrangements made were somewhat elaborate, enabling the Chiefs to take the final Census within a week instead of spreading it over several weeks, with the aid of literate lessees of villages, schoolmasters and State officials of all other Departments. In these States, owing to want of a sufficient number of literate persons, the Census units were much larger than in the British districts. The extraordinary increase in the population of these States, ranging from 22 to 76 per cent, is evidence of the ease with which every nook and corner of these wild regions was searched and the inhabitants thereof enumerated.

DETAILS OF CENSUS

Population of each district.

158. The following statement shows the population of each district as compared with the previous Census, after making the necessary adjustments:—

A.—Statement showing the population of each district as compared with the previous Census.

District or State.	Area in square miles.	Population.		Variation per cent.	Number of persons per square mile.		Remarks.
		1911	1901		1911	1901	
1. Saugor ...	3,962	541,410	469,479	+15·32	136·65	118·50	
2. Damoh ...	2,816	333,047	285,326	+16·73	118,27	101·32	
3. Jubbulpore ...	3,912	745,892	680,585	+9·60	190·67	173·97	
4. Mandla ...	5,057	405,234	318,381	+27·28	80·13	62·96	
5. Seoni ...	3,206	395,481	327,709	+20·68	123·36	102·22	
Jubbulpore Division ...	18,953	2,421,064	2,081,480	+16·31	127·74	109·82	
6. Narsinghpur ...	1,976	325,677	315,518	+3·22	164·82	159·68	
7. Hoshangabad ...	3,682	457,395	446,645	+2·41	124·22	121·30	
8. Nimar ...	4,227	391,071	327,173	+19·53	92·52	77·40	
9. Betul ...	3,872	399,386	287,807	+35·64	100·82	74·33	
10. Chhindwara ...	4,631	516,948	407,865	+26·74	111·63	88·07	
Nerbudda Division ...	18,388	2,081,477	1,785,008	+16·61	113·20	97·07	
11. Wardha ...	2,428	459,796	385,103	+19·40	189·37	158·61	
12. Nagpur ...	3,840	809,901	751,844	+7·72	210·91	195·79	
13. Chanda ...	9,312	677,544	533,887	+26·91	72·76	57·33	
14. Bhandara ...	3,965	773,677	663,062	+16·68	195·13	167·23	
15. Balaghat ...	3,132	388,920	325,390	+19·52	124·18	103·89	
Nagpur Division ...	22,677	3,109,838	2,659,286	+16·94	137·14	117·27	
16. Raipur ...	9,831	1,324,856	1,096,858	+20·79	134·76	111·57	
17. Bilaspur ...	7,608	1,146 223	918,491	+24·79	150·66	120·73	
18. Drug ...	4,645	775,688	676,313	+14·69	166·99	145·60	
Chhattisgarh Division ...	22,084	3,246,767	2,691,662	+20·62	147·02	121·88	
C. P. British Districts ...	82,102	10,859,146	9,217,436	+17·81	132·26	112·27	
19. Amraoti ...	4.733	875,004	809 409	+8·20	185·06	171·03	
20. Akola ...	4,097	788,863	754,187	+4·60	192·55	184·08	
21. Buldana ...	3,731	669,182	614,373	+8·92	170·36	164·67	
22. Yeotmal ...	5,205	723,213	575,957	+25·57	138·95	110·65	
Berar Division ...	17,766	3,057,162	2,754,016	+11·01	172·08	155·02	
C. P. British Districts and Berar.	99,868	13,916 308	11,971,452	+16·25	139·35	119·87	
23. Makrai ...	155	15,021	13,035	+15·24	96·91	84·10	
24. Bastar ...	13,062	433,310	306,501	+41·37	33·17	23·47	
25. Kanker ...	1,429	127,014	103,536	+22·68	88·88	72·45	
26. Nandgaon ...	871	167,362	126,365	+32·44	192·15	145·08	
27. Khairagarh ...	931	155,471	137,554	+13·03	166·99	147·75	
28. Chhuikhadan ...	154	31,150	26,368	+18·14	202·27	171·22	
29. Kawardha ...	798	77,654	57,474	+35·11	97·31	72·02	
30. Sakti ...	138	34,547	22,301	+54·91	250·34	161·60	
31. Raigarh ...	1,486	218,860	174,929	+25·11	147·28	117·72	
32. Sarangarh ...	540	102,071	79,900	+27·75	189·02	147·96	
33. Changbhakar ...	906	24,421	19.548	+24·93	26·95	21·58	
34. Korea ...	1,625	62,107	35,113	+76 88	38·22	21·61	
35. Surguja ...	6,055	428,703	351,011	+22·13	70·80	57·97	
36. Udaipur ...	1,055	64,853	45,391	+42·88	61·47	43·02	
37. Jashpur ...	1,963	174,458	132,114	+32·05	88·87	67·30	
Feudatory States ...	31,168	2,117,002	1,631,140	+29·79	67·92	52·33	
Central Provinces and Berar.	131,036	16,033,310	13,602,592	+17·87	122·36	103·81	

There have been considerable changes in the area of the Province by the addition of Berar and the Chota-Nagpur States, and the transfer of almost the whole of the Sambalpur District and five Uriya States to Bengal and a portion of Chanda to Madras. The net result of these changes has been an increase of 15,142 square miles. There has been, moreover, some internal reorganization of districts. The figures of density per square mile in 1901 have, therefore, been adjusted in accordance with the revised areas. During the last decade the population of the Province (including Berar) has increased by 1,729,563 persons, or by 17·87 per cent. It is remarkable in tracts in which the aboriginal races predominate, and especially in the districts of Betul, Mandla, and Chanda, in which the mean density has been lower than in other British districts, in the Bastar State, and generally throughout the Feudatory States. The decade was marked by agricultural and industrial prosperity and progress. Never was labour more in demand and wages rose far more rapidly than prices. The reaction after the depression of districts of the 1900 famine sent the birth-rate up, and the generally healthy conditions of the decade kept the death-rate down. Circumstances, therefore, were all in favour of a large increase of population, especially in the lower strata of the community. Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur Districts show the smallest increase, and this may be partly due to movement of population, statistics for which are not at present available.

159. The figures of density show the Berar districts to be densely populated, while Chanda continues to be the most thinly populated among the British districts. Among the States, the smallest ones (Sakti and Chhuikhadan) are most densely populated, while the largest, Bastar, is the most sparse, except Changbhakar, which, as its name indicates, is mostly rock.

Proportion of sexes.

160. The proportion of males to females per 10,000 of population is shown below:—

Proportion of males to females per 10,000 *of the population.*

	British Districts.		Berar.		Feudatory States.		Central Provinces and Berar.	
	1911	1901	1911	1901	1911	1901	1911	1901
Males	4,954	4,917	5,072	5,063	4,977	4,978	4,980	4,954
Females	5,046	5,083	4,928	4,937	5,023	5,022	5,020	5,046

As in the last Census, females exceed males in most of the Central Provinces British districts and Feudatory States, but in the districts of Berar the proportion is reversed. On the whole, the statistics of sex show a tendency towards a balance between the sexes. Females usually predominate among the aboriginal populations.

Religion.

161. The relative proportion of persons of each religion per 10,000 of population, as compared with 1901, is as follows:—

Relative proportion of persons of each religion per 10,000 *of population as compared with* 1901.

Religion.	1911.							
	Number of persons.				Proportion per 10,000 of population.			
	British Districts.	Berar.	Feudatory States.	Central Provinces and Berar.	British Districts.	Berar.	Feudatory States.	Central Provinces and Berar.
Hindu ...	8 828,377	2,668,109	1,311,388	12,807,874	8,130	8,727	6,195	7,988
Jain ...	51,358	18,900	1,159	71,417	47	62	5	45
Musalman ..	326,244	238,665	20,120	585,029	301	781	95	365
Animists ...	1,617,060	127,861	745,434	2,490,355	1,489	418	3,521	1,553
Christian ...	31,874	2,823	38,704	73,401	29	9	183	46
Others ...	4,233	804	197	5,234	4	3	1	3
Total ...	10,859,146	3,057,162	2,117,002	16,033,310	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

Religion.	1901							
	Number of persons.				Proportion per 10,000 of population.			
	British Districts.	Berar.	Feudatory States.	Central Provinces and Berar.	British Districts.	Berar.	Feudatory States.	Central Provinces and Berar.
Hindu ...	7,574,122	2,388,016	1,109,539	11,071,677	8,217	8,671	6,802	8,139
Jain ...	47,271	19,639	834	67,744	51	71	5	50
Musalman ...	291,569	212,040	15,640	519,249	316	770	96	382
Animists ...	1,277,845	129,964	504,368	1,912,177	1,387	472	3,092	1,406
Christian ...	24,244	2,375	633	27,252	26	9	4	20
Others ...	2,385	1,982	126	4,493	3	7	1	3
Total ...	9,217,436	2,754,016	1,631,140	13,602,592	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

In the last Census there was a decline among Animists, and it was explained that they were gradually becoming absorbed by Hindus. The increase among so-called Animists in this Census is probably due to differences in classification. The distinction between Animist and Hindu is, at least in a considerable section of society, very arbitrary. There is remarkable increase among the Christians, owing to conversion of thousands of Oraons in the Jashpur State. The followers of the Arya and Brahmo Samaj reforming sects now number 1,006 against 741 in 1901.

2—BIRTHS AND DEATHS

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1910, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

162. No definite change was made in the system of registering vital statistics during the year, but wherever the existing rules on the subject were not being properly carried out, orders were issued for their proper observance. Registration of still-births was commenced during the year, but there was much confusion as to the significance of the term. The Chief Commissioner's general impression is that in all rural areas, and in the larger towns where Municipal agency is most efficient, very few vital occurrences remain unrecorded, but that in small and medium sized towns reporting is most defective. The proper diagnosis of the causes of death remains, as before, the main difficulty in the way of accurate returns. It is evident that, except where it is epidemic, malaria is credited with a vastly greater number of victims than it can really claim, while diseases of the respiratory system account for much larger mortality than is ever shown against them. It is, however, useless to inveigh against the diagnosis. Until qualified medical practitioners cover the country, and all deaths are certified by professional opinion, the diagnosis must always be extremely superficial, and all that can be done is to remove its worst inaccuracies. Hitherto action taken in this direction has been mainly individual action based on suggestions or experiments made by particular officers. This is one of the several matters connected with medical and sanitary needs of the country that the Chief Commissioner proposes to refer to a small conference of medical and revenue officers for consideration when a suitable opportunity occurs. **System of Registration.**

163. The total number of births registered was 663,400. The year was one of exceptional prosperity. Trade was brisk, and wages high, while prices of food-grains were much lower than they had been for some years. There has been a complete recovery from the depression of the year 1907-08; and the birth-rate of 55·42 per thousand upon the census population of 1901 has not been surpassed during the last three decades. The lowest rates of the year were 49 in Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur, 48 in Akola, and 47 in Nagpur and Amraoti. In the first two districts the increase in population is now known to be much smaller than anywhere else in the Province; in the last three the rate was adversely affected by plague in 1909. **Births.**

164. In a year of general prosperity it is disappointing to find a death-rate so high as 44·88 per mille, but this is reduced to 41·79 if mortality due to plague, **Deaths.**

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

cholera, and small-pox be deducted. The conditions which marked the Provinces since the census of 1901, which was taken just at the end of the great famine of 1899-1900, were almost bound to produce this phenomenon. The great loss of population which marked the last half of the last decade of the 19th century was followed by a continuously high birth-rate, Nature's recovery from calamity which has been maintained by successive years of prosperity. The percentage of child population has thus been unusually large. Since the death-rate among children must always be greatly higher than the death-rate among adults, a high death-rate measured on census population was the inevitable accompaniment. Thus the total deaths for the year 1910 were 537,252, and 299,189 represented deaths of infants and children under five years of age. If to this figure be added the 26,644 deaths among children between the ages of five and ten, it becomes evident that over three-fifths of the total mortality of the year related to children born since the last census.

Chief diseases.

165. Deaths from cholera and small-pox show a satisfactory decrease, the former having fallen from 7,687 to 5,316, and the latter from 4,155 to 2,794. The reduction in mortality from these causes continues to be among the most satisfactory results of sanitary effort. The large increase in plague from 19,216 to 28,961 is much to be regretted, but even this disease is gradually coming under control with the better enlightenment of the people. The mortality from fevers rose from 180,544 to 256,492, and an increase in the number of deaths due to malaria is attributed to the heavy and long-protracted rainfall, but the disease did not reach epidemic proportions. Dysentery and diarrhœa are especially prevalent in Wardha and Berar, and there is some reason to think are connected with the consumption of old juar; but no very definite conclusions have been reached. The subject requires further investigation.

Special measures.

166. There has been a reduction in the total number of inoculations against plague effected during the year, but this was due to the fact that the disease was much more diffused and not so virulent in urban areas as in 1909. Inoculation is certainly gaining ground, and at each successive outbreak the opposition grows less strong. Evacuation of houses is also more readily adopted, though many lives are still lost owing to delays. In rural areas it is usually very thorough and prompt, and a heavy mortality in a single village, except in the rains, is now almost a thing of the past. But in the towns, especially among artizans and fatalistic castes, there is still some regrettable reluctance shown by the people to leave their houses. As regards malaria, a special officer was appointed to conduct a scientific enquiry into the prevalence and distribution of malaria, and a scheme for the local manufacture and sale of quinine tablets and powders, was developed. In connection with cholera, the usual measures of permanganating the water-supply, and distributing medicines through the agency of the police, compounders, and vaccination staff were observed: only in Wardha and Mandla, where the disease was very severe, were Sub-Assistant Surgeons detailed on special cholera duty.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

3—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

[Report on the Inland Emigration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th June 1911, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Emigration.

167. A noticeable feature of the annual statistics is again the continued growth of every class of recruiting agency with the exception of that of sardars empowered under Section 90, coupled with a further decline in the total number of emigrants secured. A shortage in the labour available from the Province for outside employment was to be anticipated as a normal consequence of the good harvests that were everywhere enjoyed. In Chhattisgarh, as a result of the greater energy expended on recruitment, there was actually a small increase in the number of coolies drawn from the districts of Bilaspur and Drug, in spite of the fact that the crops reaped there, both kharif and rabi, were much above the average. But in the Jubbulpore Division, the only other recruiting area of any importance in the Province, there was a decline more in keeping with the prosperity of the season. Moreover, the task of recruiting grows harder year by year; agricultural prosperity and industrial development have in recent years

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

simultaneously made a rapid advance, prices have been steadily maintained at a high level, and a wage of Rs. 6 a month in Assam is no longer the inducement that it was. As in the previous year, the contract system of recruiting is slowly giving place to the sardari system. There was no important change in the flow of emigration from the Province, except in regard to the number of dependants. The total number of labourers recruited decreased from 4,674 to 4,500, of whom 2,937 were males and 1,563 females.

Health of emigrants.

168. Depôts and rest-houses for the accommodation of coolies in transit to the tea-gardens were regularly inspected and were well reported on. The health of coolies was generally good.

Working of Act VI of 1901.

169. The number of proceedings instituted under the Act, apart from the cancellation of licenses or refusals to renew them, was not large, except in the Bilaspur District. Here 13 prosecutions were found necessary—11 of them under Section 164 of the Act for improper recruitment near Sakti.

Financial.

170. The total receipts were Rs. 3,748 and the total expenditure only Rs. 640. The chief sources of expenditure were Medical Officers' fees and the pay of the Emigration Clerks at Bilaspur and Jubbulpore.

Emigration to the Colonies under Act XXI of 1883.

171. Recruiting for the Colonies was confined to the Jubbulpore and Hoshangabad Districts. The single head recruiter in the Jubbulpore District sent away 13 labourers, while one head recruiter and 3 recruiters, in the Hoshangabad District, who collected labour for British Guiana and Natal, secured only 6 labourers.

4—MEDICAL RELIEF

MEDICAL RELIEF

[Triennial Report on Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar for the period ending 31st December 1910, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Number of dispensaries.

172. There were 280 dispensaries at work at the end of the previous year. 17 new ones were opened during the year, while 13 were closed, so that the number remaining at the end of 1910 was 284. Of the institutions open at the close of the year, 31 were maintained by State and 159 by Local Bodies, while the rest were either private or State-aided institutions.

Number of patients.

173. The number of patients, both in-door and out-door, treated at the public, local fund, and private aided dispensaries during the year was 1,789,383, or an increase of over 10,000 over the figure of the previous year.

Private dispensaries.

174. The number of private dispensaries, which are maintained generally by Missionary bodies and Feudatory States, but in a few cases by private persons, remained the same as at the close of the previous year, *viz.*, 52. Three new dispensaries were opened, but the same number were closed. The total attendance at these institutions fell during the year from 342,921 to 339,547.

Relative frequency of diseases.

175. The diseases for which relief was chiefly sought were the diseases of the eye, the respiratory and digestive systems and the skin and ear. 453 cases of cholera and 2,546 of plague were treated, 1,158 of the latter being at Jubbulpore alone. The number of cases of malaria treated showed an increase.

Surgical operations.

176. The total number of operations performed during the year was 43,753, or 554 less than in the preceding year. The falling off was due to the exclusion of certain minor operations from the list according to recent orders. Notwithstanding this fall, the total operations performed during the triennium ending 1910 rose from 123,778 to 132,731, the operations on the eye showing a rise from 2,791 to 3,057.

Income.

177. The total receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 7,68,582 as compared with Rs. 7,06,344 in the preceding year; the increase occurred chiefly under the heads Government and Local Fund Contributions and subscriptions both from Natives and Europeans.

Expenditure.

178. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 4,51,048, or Rs. 9,505 more than in the previous year. The year closed with a balance of Rs. 3,17,534.

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

5—TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

[Notes on the Annual Statements of the Lunatic Asylum in the Central Provinces for the year 1910 and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Numbers and health.

179. In 1907 all the females were transferred from the Jubbulpore Asylum to the Nagpur Asylum, and in 1910 all the males were also transferred from Jubbulpore, so that there is now only one Lunatic Asylum in the Provinces. The total population of the Nagpur Asylum was 396, the same as in the preceding year. The number of criminal lunatics rose from 95 to 102. The number of admissions and discharges was 88 and 57, respectively. The total number of deaths was 80. This high mortality was due largely to ankylostomiasis, and has formed the subject of a special enquiry.

Investigation of causes.

180. Of the 259 lunatics who were in the Asylum at the close of the year, the causes of insanity were ascertained in 191 cases, while in the case of the remaining 68 the causes remained unknown. The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals reports that the information supplied in regard to causation is still very defective.

Expenditure.

181. The total expenditure during the year fell from Rs. 76,132 to Rs. 56,716, due chiefly to the reduction in cost owing to the abolition of the Asylum at Jubbulpore.

Industries and improvements.

182. As usual, the chief occupations of lunatics were farming, dairy, gardening, and weaving work. As one of the results of the investigations into the causes of high mortality at the Asylum, structural and executive defects which had not hitherto attracted attention have now been brought to notice, and proposals are under consideration involving considerable improvements in many directions, extending to new construction, a large staff of sweepers, and the alteration of much of the drainage system.

SANITATION

6—SANITATION

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1910, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Chief sanitary works.

183. The Gorewara tank water-supply scheme was in progress throughout the year, and the cost incurred during the year was Rs. 3,45,420. At Chikalda, in the Amraoti district, Rs. 6,579 were expended on the underground reservoir which is nearing completion. Harda Water-works have been completed and distribution pipes are being made, the expenditure incurred during the year being Rs. 1,12,068. At Burhanpur the construction of galleries in the open portion of the Chintaharan Channel, and the special repairs to the main channel, are still in progress. The underground works have been attended with some difficulty, but are well in hand and will be completed next year. At Hinganghat the contemplated improvements at a cost of Rs. 20,000 are apparently at a stand still, and at Buldana a new oil-engine is being set up.

Municipal sanitation.

184. In respect of larger works of improvement in Municipal towns, the Sanitary grant of the Government of India was utilised to the best advantage in the improvement of the water-supply, the provision of good drainage, and the removal of congestion and overcrowding. Under these three heads the distribution was as follows :—

Improvement of Water-supply.—Rs. 1,45,000 were given from the budget allotment in the Medical Department of 2½ lakhs for Sanitation grants for the year 1910-11 for the Gorewara Water-works Scheme at Nagpur. The estimate for this work was 10 lakhs, Government contributing 2½ lakhs and the remainder being met by a loan. Rs. 2,226 were provided from the same budget allotment in December 1910 for the survey of a project for supplying Amraoti with water.

The provision of a good drainage.—In March 1911 the Government of India placed at the disposal of the Administration a non-recurring grant of 2 lakhs of rupees to be carried in the Provincial balance till required for expenditure. This might only be spent on urban sanitary schemes that were ready, and the Government of India estimated that it might be spread over two years. The only two schemes which were found to be ready were the Nagpur and

SANITATION

Wardha drainage schemes. To the former Rs. 75,000 were allotted and Rs. 25,000 to the latter, thus utilising the whole sum available for 1911-12. A sum of Rs. 50,000 out of the annual recurring sanitary allotment from the Government of India for 1910-11 was also paid to the Nagpur Municipality as a grant towards the drainage scheme. This grant will be raised to Rs. 1,00,000, and paid annually for the years 1911-12 to 1916-17. The lakh for 1911-12 will be made up of the Rs. 75,000 already referred to as coming out of the non-recurring grant, and of Rs. 25,000 from the recurring annual grant, and a final grant of Rs. 1,50,000 will be paid in 1917-18. From the annual recurring allotment Rs. 10,000 were paid as a grant-in-aid to the Jubbulpore drainage survey, while Rs. 9,000 were expended in preparing drainage projects for Akola, Khamgaon, and Wardha.

Removal of congestion and overcrowding.—Out of a sum of Rs. 25,000, which had been sanctioned as a grant to the Hoshangabad Municipality in 1909 for the opening out and improving of the town, a sum of Rs. 15,000 was paid in 1909, and the remainder of the grant, Rs. 10,000, was paid in 1910-11. A fire caused great destruction in Khandwa in May 1910, and the occasion was seized to rebuild the burnt portion, which had before been grossly congested, on modern and more sanitary lines. The cost of this project was estimated at Rs. 16,000, of which sum the Municipality were in a position to provide Rs. 9,000, while the Administration gave the remaining Rs. 7,000. A strong effort is being made to improve the Sanitary staff of the Provincial Municipalities, and it is hoped ultimately to provide 13 trained Sanitary Inspectors for various Municipalities.

Rural sanitation.

185. During the year the provisions of the Village Sanitation Act were neither extended to, nor withdrawn from, any village in the Central Provinces. In Berar they have not as yet been introduced into any village, but the Government of India have sanctioned their adoption, and rules are being drawn up, so as to make the Act applicable to Berar; and as soon as they are sanctioned by the Administration, it is proposed to apply them to several villages where sanitation is at present in a very backward state. In the Central Provinces Rs. 52,247 were raised locally, and Rs. 51,710 were spent on the construction and repairs of wells, drains and roads and clearing village sites, and other miscellaneous items. In none of the villages was there any improvement worth mentioning, except in Multai, in Betul district, where the existing tank, which was in a very bad condition and has been the cause of so many outbreaks of cholera, was improved by private labour, and a sanitary garden established.

The constitution and powers of the Sanitary Board are still *sub judice*, and no meetings of the old Sanitary Board were held during the year.

7—VACCINATION

VACCINATION

[Triennial Report on Vaccination in the Central Provinces for the years 1908-09, 1909-10, and 1910-11, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

General record of vaccination.

186. The year shows a marked improvement in the work of the Vaccination Department. The total number of operations performed rose from 609,606 to 654,114. The comparison of the vaccination work of the years 1908-09, 1909-10, and 1910-11 with the results of the previous triennium shows that the total operations and the total primary vaccinations have each increased by about 4 per cent, while revaccinations show a slight fall. The ratios of persons successfully vaccinated per mille of population, which was 42·66 in 1907-08, has risen to 45·08, and the percentage of children under one year of age successfully vaccinated during the past three years is reported to be 80·62, compared with 79·49 in the previous triennium. What opposition to vaccination there is, arises more in the richer and open districts and in the larger towns than in the jungly portions of the Province where the aboriginal population is marked for its great tractability.

Vaccination in Municipalities.

187. The Vaccination Act was in force in 48 Municipalities in the Central Provinces and in 13 in Berar, and it is only in these 61 towns that vaccination is compulsory. The number of children in these areas who escape vaccination is large, and, as an instance, no less than 113 children in the Municipal Schools of the Wardha District were found to be unvaccinated. The duty of enforcing

the Vaccination Act rests with the Municipal Committees, and the better enforcement of the Act is a matter requiring serious attention.

Mortality from small-pox.

188. Deaths from small-pox numbered 2,419, or 0·22 per thousand of population, against 0·29 in 1909-10, and the proportion of population protected by vaccination was 44·57 as compared with 42·08 in the preceding year.

Lymph.

189. Only glycerinated calf lymph was used during the year, and the success obtained therefrom was 96·01 per cent. The preparation of an aseptic lymph of the proper strength is a most important aid to successful and popular vaccination. The supply of a really pure lymph of standard strength cannot be secured under the present system, and the increased cost of a central depôt would be worth incurring, if it did away with the risk of septic lymph being used.

Expenditure.

190. In British territory the total expenditure on vaccination amounted to Rs. 62,284 against Rs. 61,185 in the past year. The increase mainly occurred under the heads "Salaries of Assistant Superintendents of Vaccination" and "Contingencies." In the Feudatory States the expenditure during the past year fell by Rs. 234.

CHAPTER VII

INSTRUCTION

1—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

191. An account of this subject will be found at pages 118 to 124 of the Report on the administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1901-02, and also at pages 80 to 83 of the Report on the administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year.

2—EDUCATION

EDUCATION

[Report on the state and progress of Education in the Central Provinces for the year 1910-11, and Part VII of the Statistics of British India.]

192. Generally speaking, the work done during the year has been quite satisfactory and several matters long under consideration have passed from the stage of proposals to the stage of accomplished facts. One of the most important of these measures was the establishment of the new Training College at Jubbulpore. The enthusiasm for education varies greatly in different localities, but is generally on the increase, and it is in those places where local effort has been greatest that the Department has also been able to make the most progress. **Features of the year's work.**

193. The total number of educational institutions was 3,865, or 72 more than in the preceding year, and the number of scholars rose from 296,305 to 297,620. The increase was chiefly confined to Primary Schools for boys, and was due in considerable measure to the introduction of the Indigenous School Grant-in-aid System in Berar. The percentage of scholars to children of school-going age in British territory was 13·14 as compared with 14·6 for 1909-10, but this apparent decrease is due to the calculation of the present percentage on the basis of the new Census figures. **Number of schools and scholars.**

194. The total expenditure on education in British territory was 29·82 lakhs, while 1·02 lakhs were spent in Native States. The average cost of educating each pupil rose from Rs. 7-2-10 to Rs. 7-4-3. Of the total expenditure, 37·25 per cent was met from Provincial Revenues and 35·80 per cent from District Funds, while Municipal Funds, Fees, and other sources contributed 6, 7, and 13 per cent, respectively. **Expenditure on education.**

195. The number of Arts Colleges remains the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 4, but there was an increase of 1 in Professorial Colleges owing to the conversion of the Jubbulpore Normal School into a Training College. During the year the collegiate education suffered from the prevalence of plague, particularly in Nagpur. The Morris College distinguished itself by remaining at work throughout the worst of the epidemic. For the first time the Victoria College of Science had a student working for the degree of M. Sc. The Morris College was affiliated in History up to the M. A. Standard. The new College buildings, though not ready for permanent occupation, were used during the prevalence of plague. They will henceforth be used permanently, and should do much towards the improvement of the College. At the Hislop College the new Science buildings were opened, and advantage was taken of the special Government of India grant to acquire buildings adjoining the College. In their working aspect the Colleges are doing well, but it remains to cultivate their athletic and social sides, which have hitherto been neglected. The necessity is fully realized by the Staff, and time and provision of the requisite facilities will enable this object to be fulfilled. **University education.**

196. There has been little variation in the figures of secondary education; but had plague not interfered with the year's work, progress would have been apparent in English education. The results of the Matriculation Examination showed a rise in the percentage of passes from 25·1 to 35·6, but this is probably due to the variable character of the Examination. The policy of the Administration with respect to secondary education was fully considered during the year, and **Secondary education.**

since its close a definite policy has been prescribed. The plan of establishing a model High School, with a Middle School Department at each District Head-quarters and model Middle Schools at Tahsili Head-quarters, will be steadily pursued as funds permit. A reasonable enhancement of fees was imposed, with due regard to the interests of scholars at present on the rolls, and the number of scholarships available was substantially increased. A new Grant-in-aid Code was also drawn up for the encouragement of private institutions. An lo-Vernacular education is prospering, and the conduct and demeanour of the pupils showed marked improvement.

Primary education.

197. The number of Primary Schools rose by 121, and the number of scholars by 8,019; but for the prevalence of plague, attendance would have worked out at a considerably higher total Primary education, which is the special charge of the local bodies, has continued to expand slightly. The further extension of primary education is a question of time and funds, but any undue haste in quest of quantity at the sacrifice of quality is much to be deprecated. The mere multiplication of ill-taught pupils in inferior village schools, of whom the great majority lapse into illiteracy, has little or no effect in improving the general well-being of the masses.

Technical education.

198. No noteworthy changes were effected during the year in technical and special education. Since the close of the year the addition of an Engineering School to the Victoria College of Science at Nagpur has been sanctioned by the Government of India, and it is hoped that this institution will be in full swing before the end of 1912. The Engineering Class at Jubbulpore has not proved a success, and will be closed as soon as possible. It has long been felt that a Medical School for the benefit of Provincial students is an urgent necessity, and steps are being taken to re-open the institution which was closed in 1883.

Female education.

199. Female education has not advanced very greatly during the year. An attempt is now being made to encourage female education in villages, where there are no girls' schools, by the admission of girls to boys' schools. A 40-rupees grade for female teachers was created, and the number of graded posts increased. A new power has also been given to the Inspectress of Schools to transfer ungraded posts throughout the Province—a measure which it is hoped will tend towards greater efficiency and economy.

European schools.

200. European education presented no very salient feature. The financial position of the schools is unsatisfactory, and their dependence on Government is becoming greater. The Director of Public Instruction is considering the lines on which financial assistance should be given to European Schools. In connection with the Jubilee celebrations of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles, some special scholarships for the children of Volunteers were founded, and awards have already been made.

Muhammadan education.

201. Muhammadan Schools are not flourishing as much as could be wished. In Berar Muhammadan education suffered from plague, but, apart from this, the position is not satisfactory, and the Director of Public Instruction is devising means of improvement.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

3—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

[Part VII of the Statistics of British India.]

Publications.

202. During the year under review the number of publications amounted to 144 as against 115 of 1909 10 and 122 of 1908-09. Of these 24 were in English, 42 in Hindi, 42 in Marathi, 11 in Urdu, 5 in Urdu (written in Hindi character), 4 in Gujarati, 7 in English-Marathi, 3 in English-Hindi, 2 in Sanskrit, 3 in Marathi-Sanskrit, and 1 in Arabic (in Hindi character). There were 42 religious works, 10 poetical, 5 geographical, 4 medical, 3 each in fiction, law, philosophy and sciences, 23 under language, 2 political, and the rest dealt with miscellaneous subjects. 34 books were of an educational character.

The Vernacular Press.

203. The number of newspapers and periodicals published in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year was 27 as against 29 of last year. The *Desha Sewak* newspaper and the Prabodh Press where it was printed were called

upon to furnish security under Section 4 of the Press Act. Security was not forthcoming and the paper ceased to exist from June 1910. The only papers that have an appreciable influence on public opinion are the *Marwari* with a circulation of 1,000, *Kartavya* 624, and *Berar Samachar* 250, copies per week.

4—LITERARY SOCIETIES

204. During the year there were 62 Scientific and Literary Societies in the Province. Almost all were subscription libraries, and depended chiefly for support on subscriptions from members. In the case of 15, however, the income was supplemented by grants from Provincial and Municipal Funds.

5—ARTS AND SCIENCES

205. Really substantial progress took place in the Nagpur Museum. It has been officially recognised that this Museum has far greater possibilities as a collection of the extensive and interesting fauna of the Province than as a repository for a limited and comparatively uninteresting set of archæological exhibits, and an Assistant Curator has therefore been appointed, who is an educated man, possessing a knowledge and taste for natural history. There is also an Archæological Assistant on temporary duty. It is hoped that the Zoological Section will in a few years' time be more worthy of the reputation of the Province for abundance of animal life. The services of the Archæological Assistant were lent to inspect and catalogue the archæological exhibits at the Raipur Museum. The work of teaching weavers the use of the improved loom, under the auspices of the District Council, in connection with this Museum, continued during the year.

CHAPTER VIII

ARCHÆOLOGY.

(o)

[For further information see Archæological Survey of India (New Series), Volume XIX.]

ARCHÆOLOGY.

206. A counterfort to the south wing of the Achaleshwar gate in the Chanda Fort walls was taken in hand and completed at an expenditure of Rs. 645. The restoration of Gawilgarh Fort, Chikalda, was begun and a sum of Rs. 1,667 was devoted to this object. A sum of Rs. 8,854 was expended on the restoration of the Mahadeo Temple at Pali in the Bilaspur District and the old brick temple at Sirpur in the Raipur District.

CHAPTER IX

MISCELLANEOUS

1—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

Ecclesiastical.

207. The diocese of Nagpur was formed in 1903, and includes the whole of the Central Provinces, Berar, Central India, Ajmere-Merwara, and all stations in Rajputana, except Mount Abu. There were no changes during the year.

2—STATIONERY

STATIONERY

208. The value of stationery supplied to offices and courts from the Central Depôt, including cost of carriage, as well as stationery purchased locally, has increased from Rs. 97,905 in 1909-10 to Rs. 1,30,963 in 1910-11. The increase is mainly due to the supply of a large quantity of Chin Chin ink, specially imported for the Land Records Department, and to the creation of two new offices. Typewriters were also supplied to various offices, and several indents of the Forest Department for the previous year were complied with only during the year under report. Increased work in Civil and Criminal Courts and Census Operations are also responsible. Charges on account of conveyance of forms decreased from Rs. 9,105 in 1909-10 to Rs. 8,390 in 1910-11.

The total value of stationery supplied to Printing Presses, including cost of carriage, increased from Rs. 74,099 in the previous year to Rs. 1,39,701 in the year under report. The increase in both presses is more apparent than real, inasmuch as a large quantity of stationery, which should ordinarily have been supplied to the presses in 1909-10, was either withheld or not passed by the Controller of Stationery during that year, and consequently it had to be indented for and supplied almost immediately after the close of the year, thus swelling the figures of the year under report. The actual increase in the Jail Press is due to increased demands from Law Courts, General Administration and Forest Departments, while the increase in the Secretariat Press is due to heavy printing and binding work done for the Police and Settlement Departments and to the increase in the circulation of the *Central Provinces Gazette.*

3—GENERAL—MISCELLANEOUS

GENERAL

Registration of rainfall.

209. There were in all 172 rain-gauges in these Provinces, of which 15 were observatories under the control of the Imperial Meteorological Department, 20 were maintained by the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, 15 were in the Feudatory States, while the remainder (122) were under the control of the Director of Land Records. A rain-gauge was established at Bhainsdehi in the Betul District, while the rain-gauge at Umrer in the Nagpur District was removed to a more suitable site. All except ten of the rain-gauges were inspected during the year, and all defects brought to light were remedied.

Govt. Press, Nagpur :—No. 1872, Civil Sectt.—21-2-12—400.

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR

FOR THE YEAR

1911-12

Agents for the Sale of Books published by the Central Provinces Administration.

IN ENGLAND.

CONSTABLE & CO., 10, Orange Street, Leicester Square, London, W. C.

P. S. KING & SON, 9, Bridge Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRUBNER & CO., 68/74, Carter Lane, London, E. C.

B. QUARITCH, 11, Grafton Street, New Bond Street, London, W.

GRINDLAY & CO., 54, Parliament Street, London, S. W.

DEIGHTON BELL & CO., Cambridge.

B. H. BLACKWELL, 50 & 51, Broad Street, Oxford.

HENRY S. KING & CO., 65, Cornhill, London, E. C.

T. FISHER UNWIN, 1, Adelphi Terrace, London, W. C.

LUZAC & CO., 46, Great Russell Street, London.

W. THACKER & CO., 2, Creed Lane, London, E. C.

OLIVER & BOYD, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh.

E. PONSONBY, Limited, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

ON THE CONTINENT.

FRIEDLANDER & SOHN, 11, Carlstrasse, Berlin.

OTTO HARRASSOWITZ, Leipzig.

KARL W. HIERSEMANN, Leipzig.

ERNEST LEROUX, 28, RUE BONAPARTE, PARIS.

MARTINUS NIJHOFF, The Hague.

IN INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

THACKER, SPINK & CO., Calcutta and Simla

NEWMAN & CO., Calcutta.

R. CAMBRAY & CO., Calcutta.

S. K. LAHIRI & CO., Calcutta.

BUTTERWORTH & CO. (India), Limited, 8/2, Hastings Street, Calcutta.

CALCUTTA SCHOOL BOOK & USEFUL LITERATURE SOCIETY, Calcutta.

THE WELDON LIBRARY, 18/5, Chowringhee Road, Calcutta.

A. J. COMBRIDGE & CO., Bombay.

THACKER & CO., LD., Bombay.

D. B. TARAPOREVALA, SONS & CO., Bombay.

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RAMCHANDRA GOVIND & SON, Booksellers, Kalbadevi, Bombay.

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RAI SAHIB M. GULAB SINGH & SONS, Lahore.

N. B. MATHUR, SUPERINTENDENT, NAZAIR KANUN HIND PRESS, Allahabad.

SUPERINTENDENT, AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION PRESS, Rangoon.

MANAGER, GENERAL BOOK DEPÔT, Nagpur and Jubbulpore.

A. M. & J. FERGUSON, Booksellers, Ceylon.

BABU S. C. TALUQDAR, Proprietor, Students & Co., Cooch Behar.

Reg. No. 2789 E., 10.—400.

Litho., S. I. O., Calcutta

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1911-12

PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY

General description.

1. The Central Provinces and Berar occupy a large proportion of the broad belt of hill and plateau country which separates the plains of Hindustan from the Deccan. They extend from Orissa to the Bombay Presidency, and from the southern border of the United Provinces and Bundelkhand to the north of Madras and the Nizam's Dominions. The total area is 130,997 square miles and the total population 16,033,310, giving an average density of 122 persons to the square mile. The Provinces include fifteen Feudatory States subordinate to the Administration, with an area of 31,174 square miles and a population of 2,117,002.

Natural features.

2. The Provinces may be divided from north-west to south-east into three tracts of upland, alternating with two of plain country. In the north-west the districts of Saugor and Damoh lie on the Vindhyan or Malwa plateau, the general elevation of which is 1,500 to 3,000 feet. South of this plateau comes the valley of the Nerbudda, with an average width of 20 miles, extending from Jubbulpore to Handia. To the south the valley is shut in by the Satpura Range, stretching from Amarkantak, the sacred source of the Nerbudda, in the east to Asirgarh in the Nimar District in the west. The general elevation is 2,000 feet, but several of the peaks rise to 3,500 and 4,000 feet. Along the southern and eastern faces lies the plain of Berar, Nagpur and Chhattisgarh, comprising the valleys of the Purna and Wardha rivers to the west, the Wainganga basin in the centre, and the upper basin of the Mahanadi in the east. The Ajanta Range, rising in the Bombay Ghats, forms the southern portion of the Berar Division and extends east as far as the valley of the Pranhita. On the other side of this valley commences the vast area of hill and jungle comprised in the Chanda and Chhattisgarh Zamindaris, and the Bastar and Kanker Feudatory States.

Soil.

3. Several distinct kinds of agricultural soil are found in the Provinces. The Nerbudda Valley and the open and level portions of the Vindhyan and Satpura plateaux are covered with a heavy black soil, suited to the production of cold-weather crops, such as wheat, linseed and gram, which depend on the moisture remaining in the ground from the monsoon and on the showers received during December and January. The soil of the Vindhyan and Satpura uplands and of the hilly country in the south is light and sandy, and is principally devoted to hill millets, which are entirely dependent on the rainfall of August and September. The basins of the Wainganga and Mahanadi consist largely of

a yellow sandy soil, and form the rice districts of the Provinces. The rainfall is heavy, and the land, though of little natural fertility, responds readily to irrigation. The western portion of the plain, where most of the soil is a rich black loam and the rainfall is usually light, forms the great cotton-growing tract of the Provinces.

Ethnology.

4. The ethnical constitution of the Provinces is no less diverse than its physical characteristics. In the landlocked plain of Chhattisgarh a Rajput dynasty had for twenty centuries, until its subversion by the Marathas a hundred and sixty years ago, ruled a people coming originally from Northern India, and since cut off from the rest of the country. The language of this part of the country is Eastern Hindi, but there are also a small number of Uriya-speakers who have immigrated from Orissa. In the north and west the races of Northern India took possession of the Vindhyan districts, the Nerbudda Valley and the open portions of the Satpura Plateau. The language of these districts is, generally speaking, Eastern Hindi in Jubbulpore, Mandla and the Wainganga Valley, Western Hindi in Saugor, Damoh, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad and Chhindwara, and Rajasthani in Nimar. The Nagpur Plain, formerly subject to the Gond dynasty of Deogarh, fell to the Marathas, who conquered it and settled in all the open country. Berar, which has been a Muhammadan possession, at any rate in name, since the beginning of the fourteenth century, formed a battle-ground for Mughal and Maratha during the greater part of the eighteenth, and though on the break-up of the Maratha confederacy at the beginning of the nineteenth century the claims of the Bhonslas to the territory were renounced, here as in Nagpur the Marathas form the dominant element. The Gonds and other Dravidian tribes, who originally held the country, retired before the Aryan invaders into the two great tracts of hill and jungle described above, where, though the process of absorption into Hinduism is proceeding gradually, they still form the majority of the population. No less than three-quarters of the population are engaged in agriculture, industry and commerce occupying less than one-sixth. *Pari passu* with the decline of village industries, which has been going on for many years, there has been a large development of general trade, the volume of which has increased by one-third since 1904.

Nature of Report.

5. The report which follows differs from ordinary annual Administration Reports, inasmuch as the chapters of standard reference, known as "red letter" chapters, have been revised and brought up to date, so as to embody among other matters the results of the Census of 1911, and are printed *in extenso* instead of being indicated by references to previous reports. The remaining chapters are an account of the administration of the Provinces during the year 1911-12, and are in no sense a decennial report.

Feudatory States.

6. During the year the Chiefs of Makrai and Nandgaon died, as also the infant son and heir of the Bastar Raja, and the Rani Sahibas of Bastar and Khairagarh. The Bastar State has now returned to complete tranquillity, and precautions are being taken to remove all causes of unrest by better supervision over the minor State officials and by a more considerate forest policy. The year was a prosperous one, and export trade was brisk, but some damage was caused to the til and cotton crops by excessive rain. Rice yielded good crops everywhere, and a bumper crop in Nandgaon. In most of the States the land revenue was realized with ease, but a large demand still remained outstanding in

Surguja. Settlement operations were completed in Udaipur and the Jagdalpur Tahsil of Bastar. There was a considerable decrease in the number of crimes reported.

Condition of the people.

7. Agricultural conditions were on the whole favourable, the final result being a rice crop above the average, a normal cotton crop which would have been much better but for the heavy rain which fell at the end of November, and a wheat crop which promised well, but was considerably damaged during February and March by rain, rust and insect pests, and in the end proved less than the average. Shortage of water and fodder in Berar and Nimar led to considerable deterioration of cattle during the hot weather. Climatically the year was healthy, though plague was widely prevalent. Wages ruled high, and the shortage of labour continued. Taken as a whole, the condition of both labourers and agriculturists was entirely satisfactory.

Realization of revenue.

8. The total current demand on account of land revenue proper was 1,83 lakhs of rupees, practically the whole of which was collected without difficulty. Habitual procrastination in making payments, the legacy of bad seasons, seems to be disappearing, and both in the Central Provinces proper and in Berar the number of coercive processes issued showed a satisfactory decrease. A large item of Rs. 41,000 remained uncollected in Narsinghpur, the amount representing arrears of royalties from the Mohpani Coal Fields, the payment of which is under discussion.

Surveys and Settlements.

9. The local traverse survey party traversed 233 villages. Settlement operations were virtually completed in five districts. A concession was made to the malguzari interest in the formal declaration of the half-assets standard of assessment. The enhancements imposed, though in some cases considerably higher than would have been considered advisable twenty years ago, have met with such ready acceptance as to suggest that even now they have erred on the side of leniency.

Land Records.

10. Further steps were taken to improve the status of the Land Record Staff by introducing the system of candidate patwaris, raising the pay of patwaris in certain districts to a minimum of Rs. 10 per mensem, granting horse allowances to Revenue Inspectors, and substituting good conduct allowances for annual rewards. The pay of Assistant Superintendents of Land Records was also improved. Although the staff was employed during part of the field season in census work, the maintenance of land records was generally satisfactory, and the records were filed punctually.

Wards' Estates.

11. There were 73 estates under management at the commencement of the year, one of which was released during the year. Four new estates were brought under management. The rental demand of $7\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs was recovered practically in full and without difficulty, and the financial position, except in four estates, was decidedly satisfactory. The total income of the estates was $15\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, of which forests accounted for $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. The temptation to exploit this source of revenue has in some cases led to results not compatible with good forestry, and the question of appointing an experienced Forest Officer is under consideration. The total ordinary expenditure amounted to $11\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs, of which land revenue absorbed Rs. 3,41,300, management Rs. 2,37,000 or 15 per cent on the gross income, and State improvements Rs. 1,17,000. Besides this $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs were devoted to the repayment of debts out of current income. Increased attention is being devoted to the cultivation of the home-farm.

Revenue and rent paying classes.

12. There was no decline from the previous year's prosperity, and the area occupied for cultivation showed an increase of 79,000 acres. Excellent work was done by Agricultural Associations, Co-operative Credit Societies and the Veterinary Department, in creating a better and more sympathetic understanding between Government and the people, and there is a marked difference between the present readiness of the public to co-operate in measures for the improvement of the administration, and that which prevailed a few years back, especially among the educated classes. The relations between landlords and tenants continued to be good, though there were the usual number of cases of individual friction, due mostly to disputes about *nistar* and to the scarcity of agricultural labour, of which landlords are apt to secure an unfair proportion.

Police.

13. There was a slight rise in the total number of crimes reported, decreases in dacoities, robberies, house-breakings and cattle-thefts being more than counterbalanced by a very large rise in the number of thefts. The influences tending to a diminution of crime were counteracted by the ravages of plague, which was severe and widely distributed. The police had a successful year, and there was a continued improvement in the methods of detecting crime and in the relations of the force with the people. The mounted police was re-organized, Nagpur being made a remount depôt. The experiment of placing recruits under a three years' agreement has deterred from enlistment men who were not prepared to stay in the force, but it is not as yet possible to judge of its effect in checking registrations.

Criminal Justice.

14 The total number of offences reported rose by more than 500, but owing to the extended use made by Magistrates of their powers under Section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the number of offences returned as true was practically the same as last year. Rather more than two-thirds of the cases disposed of were decided by stipendiary Magistrates, the remainder being dealt with by Honorary Magistrates. The average duration in all Courts (17·2 days) remained unchanged. The number of appeals for decision by all Courts fell considerably, but the proportion of cases in which the sentence of the Lower Court was upheld showed little change. Three per cent of the persons convicted were sentenced to whipping, 74 per cent to fine, and 23 per cent to imprisonment.

Prisons.

15. The number of prisoners admitted to Jail showed a considerable decrease. Jail discipline on the whole was good, and prison offences decreased. An epidemic of dysentery broke out in the Raipur Jail, but elsewhere the health of the prisoners was good. Except at Khandwa, where two mild cases occurred among inoculated prisoners, the precautions taken to prevent plague from spreading to the Jail population were entirely successful. The quinine industry started at the Nagpur Central Jail proved a great success, and, generally speaking, Jail industries proved more profitable than in the previous year. The average cost to Government of each prisoner fell from Rs. 72-11-0 to Rs. 71-8-0.

Civil Justice.

16. The number of suits instituted in 1910 was inflated by an extraordinary rush of mortgage suits, and Civil litigation in 1911 naturally showed a considerable falling off both in volume and in value, the number of suits instituted being 115,000, valued at 194 lakhs, against 135,000, valued at 282 lakhs, in the preceding year. Strenuous efforts were made to reduce the heavy arrears which resulted from the abnormal institutions of 1910, and the pending file was reduced

from 27 to 23 per cent of the total number of suits before the Courts. The percentage (54) of cases in which the decision of the Lower Court was upheld on appeal remained unchanged.

Registration.

17. The total number of registrations decreased by 4 per cent, the decrease being shared by practically all classes of documents. The value of the property affected fell from 466 lakhs to 376 lakhs, but the former figure included documents for 82½ lakhs executed in connection with a single estate. Three-quarters of the mortgages registered were in favour of non-agriculturists, but two-thirds of the total sales of proprietary rights, villages and shares were in favour of agriculturists.

Municipal Administration.

18. The number of Municipalities decreased from 57 to 56, owing to the reduction of the Sohagpur Municipality to the status of a Notified Area. The total income rose from Rs. 25,20,695 to Rs. 26,46,530, of which Rs. 3,37,000 was contributed by Government, including 2 lakhs for sanitary works. The income from octroi fell by about ¼ lakh, while that from all other taxes increased by ¾ lakh. The actual expenditure which amounted to Rs. 29,20,516 shows an increase of Rs. 1,36,840 over the expenditure of the previous year. The Nagpur Municipality spent Rs. 4,12,000 on the completion of the Gorewara Reservoir. The capital outlay on drainage amounted to Rs. 2,01,172, of which Rs. 1,87,677 represents Government grants for financing drainage schemes and for the survey of drainage projects. The drainage scheme for the City and Civil Station of Nagpur is making good progress. The construction of the Wardha drainage works was also begun. Khamgaon has a drainage project ready for inception and a scheme is in preparation for the City of Jubbulpore. The closing balances of all Municipalities represent a total of Rs. 10,63,593. The Government loans taken during the year amounted to Rs. 3,74,000, of which Rs. 3,50,000 was granted to the Nagpur Municipality. Thirteen Municipalities were in debt to Government at the close of the year; the total balance of loans outstanding was Rs. 21,48,300, of which Rs. 11,42,092 was due by the Nagpur Municipality. The finances of all towns which have taken loans are in a satisfactory condition.

District Councils and Local Boards.

19. The Nagpur District Council and the Local Boards subordinate to it were reconstituted, an additional Local Board being created for the Saoner Tahsil. The income and expenditure rose by Rs. 2,65,000 and Rs. 1,49,000, respectively. Local Rates, Cattle Pounds, Contributions and Bazar Cess all contributed to the increase in income. On the expenditure side, General Administration, Education and Civil works shared the bulk of the increase. The recurring expenditure on Education absorbed 35 per cent of the total income of District Councils in the Central Provinces and 30 per cent in Berar. The closing balances of all District Councils were well in excess of the prescribed minima. The Nagpur Division already possesses a Local Fund Engineer, and in all other Divisions Local Fund Engineers have been appointed since the commencement of the year 1912-13.

Agriculture.

20. The Agricultural College has not yet succeeded in attracting any considerable number of the cultivating castes, and the average recruit produced by the College seems, temporarily at any rate, to be inferior to the type hitherto produced. The principal lines of demonstration dealt with during the year were sugarcane, cotton, the tansplantation of rice and the destruction of pig. One of the most important results secured during the year was the successful

cultivation of *berseem*, which in some cases yielded 20,000 pounds of green fodder per acre at a single cutting. Experiments in sericulture again failed owing to disease among the worms. The Agricultural Associations continued to do good work.

Co-operative Credit.

21. The Provincial Co-operative Bank, Limited, with a capital of five lakhs, was successfully started. Twelve new Central Banks were started, and the number of Rural Societies nearly doubled. The capital in use increased from 5 to 10¼ lakhs. The rapid development of the co-operative movement has abundantly justified the appointment of a whole-time Registrar. Money in Rural Societies is lent at 12 per cent, all profits being taken to reserve.

Veterinary Department.

22. The work of the Veterinary Department expanded considerably, progress in preventive inoculation being especially noticeable; but much still remains to be done towards perfecting the system of reporting outbreaks. A scheme was submitted during the year for the complete remodelling of the subordinate cadre, on the principle of putting each district in control of an Inspector and each Division in charge of a Deputy Superintendent.

Weather and crops.

23. The general average rainfall of the Provinces was 46½ inches against a 44 years' average of 48¼ inches. The kharif crop showed a decrease of 190,000 acres, due to the want of continuity in the early monsoon. On the other hand, the plentiful rainfall of October and November caused an increase in the rabi crop of 568,000 acres. In the Central Provinces linseed, owing to its high price, increased by 70 per cent to 1¾ million acres. Cotton increased by 7 per cent, and rice and wheat by 2 per cent each. In Berar the linseed area doubled, and cotton increased by 2 per cent.

Forests.

24. The net result of the year's working of Government Forests was a decrease of 346 square miles in their area. Of the total forest area of 21,000 square miles, 9,570 were worked in accordance with sanctioned working-plans, and plans for 7,010 square miles were under preparation. In spite of a very adverse season, fire-protection operations were successful over 97 per cent of the area over which they extended. The number of cattle grazed rose by 300,000, the incidence for the whole Province being 2·5 acres per head. In the working-plans under preparation much attention has been given to the regulation of grazing so as to secure a more even distribution. The percentage of net to gross revenue rose from 23 to 31, revenue rising by 3¼ lakhs and expenditure by ½ lakh.

Mines and Quarries.

25. The output of coal decreased by 9,000 tons. Coal from the Mohpani Colliery sold at Rs. 5-8-0 a ton, against Rs. 3 and Rs. 4 for Chhindwara and Ballarpur coal. As the output from Mohpani increased by 12,000 tons, the value of the total provincial output rose by Rs. 23,000. The market value of manganese remained constant at 9*d.* per unit, and though the value per ton was returned at Rs. 4-12-0 against Rs. 4-6-6 in the preceding year, the market remained dull, and exports showed a decrease of 28,000 tons. Exports of lime-stone and clay decreased by 17,000 tons, but their value rose by Rs. 30,000.

Manufactures.

26. The number of factories working increased from 353 to 363, employing 41,838 operatives. Wages ruled high and complaints were general of the difficulty of recruiting new labour at reasonable rates.

27. Omitting animals and treasure, the rail-borne traffic of the year amounted to 60¾ millions of maunds valued at 36½ crores of rupees. The prices of food-grains rose steadily in response to external demand. The value of imports was 12 crores of rupees, and of exports 24½ crores, the increases over the preceding year being half a crore and six crores respectively. The principal increases in imports were under coal, manufactured cotton goods, metals and oil; while exports of raw cotton,—which forms more than half the total exports of the Provinces—grain, oil-seeds and *ghi*, all showed substantial increases. Bengal coal has largely tended to replace local coal for the use of private consumers. In the case of raw cotton the volume of exports was swollen by the large proportion of the previous year's crop which was held up in the hopes of a rise in prices and exported late in the season. The rise in price and deterioration in quality of *ghi* is causing much hardship to the poorer householders in towns. **Trade.**

28. The expenditure on Provincial Works was 54½ lakhs, of which 24½ lakhs were spent on original works, 19½ lakhs on maintenance and 9½ lakhs on establishment. The expenditure on communications was 24 lakhs, of which 8¾ lakhs was for original works. It will probably be desirable in the near future to devote more attention to the construction of bridges so as to give permanent access to all important centres, and less to the construction of new lines of communication. The chief sanitary work completed during the year was the Gorewara Water-works Scheme at Nagpur, the total cost of which was nearly 10 lakhs. **Public Works.**

29. The area irrigated during the year by the Irrigation Department increased by 3,000 acres. The expenditure on Protective Works was 16½ lakhs, on Productive Works 3½ lakhs and on Minor Works 5½ lakhs. Work on the Tandula Canal was delayed by scarcity of labour and unexpected engineering difficulties. Orders to start work on the Mahanadi and Waingaṅga Canals were received at the close of the year. The total revenue demand for Major and Minor Works was Rs. 81,000, to which must be added Rs. 11,000 on account of enhancements of revenue due to irrigation. **Irrigation.**

30. The total receipts under Imperial revenues amounted to 1,06 lakhs of rupees and the expenditure to 62½ lakhs. Provincial receipts were 2,70½ lakhs, and expenditure 2,58½ lakhs, leaving a closing balance of 39¾ lakhs. The year was marked by the introduction of the new permanent settlement, under which the Imperial share in receipts and expenditure under Excise was reduced from one-half to one-fourth, all receipts and expenditure under Forests became Provincial instead of being divided equally, and income-tax recovered in the Public Works Department was treated as divided instead of as wholly Imperial. Imperial revenues decreased by 2¾ lakhs, the loss under the above heads being compensated by a reduction under Adjustment of 19½ lakhs. Provincial revenues increased by 26¼ lakhs, the reduction under Adjustment being counter-balanced by increases of 30½ lakhs under Excise, 15 lakhs under Forests and 2¼ lakhs under Land Revenue. **Revenue and Expenditure.**

31. The birth-rate for the year was 49·47 per mille, which exceeded the death-rate by 14·80, and was higher than that recorded in any other province in India. Almost all districts recorded an excess over the figures for 1910. As in the previous year, more than half the total mortality occurred among children and infants. There was a satisfactory fall in the mortality from cholera **Vital Statistics.**

and small-pox, but plague, though slightly less virulent in form, extended to rural tracts which had hitherto escaped infection. Rat-destruction produced no definite results, but marked progress was made with plague inoculations which rose from 33,000 to 60,000.

Emigration. 32. As the 4,000 recruiting agents of all classes employed in the Provinces only succeeded in recruiting slightly more than one coolie per head, it is clear that the Provinces are no longer a happy hunting-ground for the recruiter. It is no longer true that the Central Provinces labourer is unwilling to move until starved into activity. Statistics show that he is ready to go considerable distances for work if it is made worth his while, but he has now a strong market for his services at home, and foreign markets, if they wish to compete successfully, must necessarily raise their wages and increase their attractions.

Medical relief. 33. Of the 288 dispensaries open at the end of the year, 30 were maintained by the State, 39 by Railways and 160 by Local Bodies, the rest being either State-aided or private institutions. The number of patients, both in-door and out-door, amounted to 1,731,000, the decrease of 58,000 being due to the general healthiness of the year, and to the dispersion of people into the fields owing to the prevalence of plague. The total receipts during the year amounted to $8\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs, an increase of Rs. 57,000. The total expenditure increased from $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs to a little over 5 lakhs, due chiefly to the fact that balances were spent on much-needed improvements instead of being hoarded.

Sanitation 34. Besides the completion of the Gorewara Water-works, improvements in the water-supply were effected at Harda, Burhanpur, Seoni and Amraoti, and schemes for supplying water to Saugor, Damoh, Chanda and Arvi were under preparation. Drainage-works were in progress at Nagpur, and schemes were drawn up for Wardha, Akola and Khamgaon. Schemes both for drainage and water-supply were under preparation in a number of towns. A good deal of improvement was effected by Municipal Committees to markets, roads and congested areas, but much remains to be done. At the close of the year the provisions of the Village Sanitation Act were in force in 56 villages.

Vaccination. 35. The total number of vaccinations performed was 682,000, an increase of 28,000. Out of 579,000 vaccinations performed in British districts, 511,000 were primary vaccinations, and the remainder re-vaccinations. Only glycerinated calf-lymph was used, and the percentage of success obtained was 96·56 against 96·01 in the previous year. Expenditure in British districts amounted to Rs. 66,000, the cost of each successful vaccination rising from Re. 0-1-10 to Re. 0-1-11. In Municipal towns about 15 per cent of the children born during the year remained unprotected, the high proportion being due partly to the disturbance caused by plague, and partly to lax enforcement of the rules.

Education. 36. Substantial progress has been made in the Department of Education during the year, at the beginning of which a special non-recurring grant of 4 lakhs was received from the Government of India. Primary Schools have been opened as funds permitted, and special attention has been devoted to providing suitable buildings and improving the quality of the schools, especially as regards their staff. A Normal School was also started at Khandwa. The policy of establishing a High School at the Head-quarters of each district is now nearing

completion. The raising of fees in secondary schools appears to have had no adverse effect on the numbers in those institutions. Greater attention is being paid to student life outside the class-room, and in particular to the encouragement of sports and the provision of good hostel accommodation. A system of compulsory games was introduced in all Government schools. A Training College was opened at Jubbulpore, affiliated to the University of Allahabad for the L. T. degree. The Civil Engineering Class attached to the Government Arts College at Jubbulpore, which proved unsuccessful, has now been definitely abolished. A site has been chosen and a beginning made with the construction of the Engineering School for Civil and Mechanical Engineers, which is to be under the control of the Principal of the Victoria College of Science. The Administration gifted the Council of the Morris College with the building and grounds of the old Residency, and a hostel has been erected in the grounds. The Colleges in the Province maintain a high standard' judged by thre esults of examinations. Two Professors in the Indian Educational Service have been added to the staff of the Jubbulpore College and one in the same service to the Victoria College of Science. Their appointment has been rendered necessary by the increase of pupils and the necessity for more individual tuition and greater attention to social education. The majority of Primary Schools for girls are Government schools, only one-sixth being maintained by Missionary bodies with the help of grants-in-aid from Government. A system of grant-in-aid for experimental girls' schools has been introduced in order to test the reality of the demand for such a school in any particular locality. Proposals have been put forward for the increase of the Female Inspecting Staff, which is at present inadequate. The question of the principles which should govern State aid to European Schools is also under consideration. Muhammadan education has shown a welcome advance, but cannot yet be considered quite satisfactory.

PART II

CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Central Provinces.[1] General description.

The Central Provinces are situated in the centre of the peninsula, and comprise a large portion of the broad belt of hill and plateau country which separates the plains of Hindustan from the Deccan. The Province lies between 17° 47′ and 24° 27′ N. and between 75° 57′ and 84° 24′ E. Its extreme length from north to south is 500 miles and its breadth from east to west also about 500 miles, while the area is 113,231 square miles, of which 82,057 are British territory and the remainder is held by Feudatory Chiefs. The Province is bounded on the north and north-west by the Central India States, and along a small strip of Saugor District by the United Provinces; on the west by the States of Bhopal and Indore, and by the Khandesh District of Bombay; on the south by Berar, the Nizam's Dominions, and large *zamindari* estates of the Madras Presidency; and on the east by the last, and by the Tributary States of Bengal. The Central Provinces are thus enclosed on nearly every side by Native States, and are cut off geographically from other British Provinces.

Berar. General description.

2. Berar (otherwise known as the Hyderabad Assigned Districts) lies between 19° 35′ and 21° 47′ N. and 75° 59′ and 79° 11′ E. It consists of a broad valley running east and west, between two tracts of hilly country, the Gawilgarh hills (the Melghat) on the north, and the Ajanta range (the Balaghat) on the south. The old name of the central valley was the Payanghat; and these three names—Melghat, Payanghat and Balaghat—will be used to define the three natural divisions of the Province. The area of Berar is 17,766 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Satpuras and the Tapti, which separate it from the Central Provinces; on the east, where again it adjoins the Central Provinces, by the Wardha; along the greater part of its southern frontier, where it adjoins the Hyderabad State, by the Penganga; while on the west an artificial line cutting across the broad valley from the Satpura Hills to the Ajanta range, and produced southwards over those hills, separates it from the Bombay Presidency and Hyderabad.

Natural divisions.[1]

3. The combined Province may be divided from north-west to south-east into three tracts of upland, alternating with two of plain country. In the north-west the Districts of Saugor and Damoh lie on the Vindhyan or Malwa plateau, the southern face of which rises almost sheer from the valley of the Nerbudda. The general elevation of this plateau varies from 1,500 to 3,000 feet. The highest part is that immediately overhanging the Nerbudda, and the general slope is to the north, the rivers of this area being tributaries of the Jamna and Ganges. The surface of the country is undulating, and broken by frequent low hills covered with a growth of poor and stunted forest. South of this plateau comes the long and narrow valley of the Nerbudda, walled in by the Vindhyan and Satpura Hills to the north and south, and extending for a length of about 200 miles from Jubbulpore to Handia, with an average width of twenty miles. The valley is situated to the south of the river, and is formed of deep alluvial deposits of extreme richness, excellently suited to the growth of wheat. Lofty and spreading *mahua* trees stud the plain; and its surface is scoured by the numerous and rapid streams which, pouring down from the Satpura Hills during the rainy season, have cut for themselves a passage to the Nerbudda through the soft soil.

[1] From the articles in the Provincial Gazetteers of the Central Provinces and Berar.

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South of the valley the Satpura range or third division stretches across the Province from Amarkantak, the sacred source of the Nerbudda, in the east to Asirgarh in the Nimar district in the west. The greater part consists of an elevated plateau, in some parts merely a rugged mass of hills hurled together by volcanic action, in others a succession of bare stony ridges and narrow fertile valleys, in which the soil has been deposited by drainage. Steep slopes lead up to the summit of the plateau from the plain country on the north and south, which are traversed in all directions by narrow deep ravines, hollowed out by the action of the streams and rivers, and covered throughout their extent with forest. The general elevation of the plateau is 2,000 feet, but several of the peaks rise to 3,500 and a few to more than 4,000 feet. The Satpuras form the watershed of the plains lying north and south of them; and some of the more important rivers of the Province, the Nerbudda, Tapti, Wardha, and Wainganga, rise in these hills. To the east the range is continued by the Maikai hills, which run north of the Bilaspur district and merge in the wild and rugged highland country of the five western Chhota Nagpur States, whose northern area drains north through the Mirzapur district of the United Provinces, while the southern waters flow into the Mahanadi.

4. Extending along the southern and eastern faces of the Satpura range lies the fourth geographical division, the plain of Berar, Nagpur and Chhattisgarh. The plain falls into three natural divisions. To the west, in the valleys of the Purna and the Wardha rivers, is the plain of Berar and Nagpur containing the rich black soil which makes the area the great cotton-growing tract of the Province. Further east the Wainganga basin, forming the districts of Balaghat, Bhandara and Chanda, possesses a heavier rainfall, and is mainly a rice-growing tract. Its distinctive feature is marked by the numerous tanks which have been constructed for the irrigation of rice, and which have caused it to receive the name of the 'lake country' of Nagpur. To the east of the Wainganga valley, separated from it by a belt of hilly country, lies the great plain of Chhattisgarh, comprising the open country of the Raipur, Drug and Bilaspur Districts, and forming the upper basin of the Mahanadi River. The Mahanadi flows through the southern portion of the plain, skirting the hills which border it to the south, while its great tributary the Seonath brings to it the drainage of Drug. Along the north the Satpura range overlooks the low country, the surface of which is an expanse of small embanked rice-fields, sometimes 50 to an acre, separated by ridges of unculturable gravel. Except for these undulations the level of the plain is generally unbroken; and over large areas there are few trees other than the mango groves adjoining the more important of the frequent clusters of mud-roofed huts which form a Chhattisgarh village. South of these level tracts lie two expanses of hill and plateau. To the west are the rugged hills of the Ajanta range, which rise in the Bombay Ghats, form the southern portion of the Berar Division, and extend to the south of Chanda as far as the valley of the Pranhita. East of this valley commences the vast area of hill and jungle comprised in the Chanda and Chhattisgarh Zamindaris, and the Bastar and Kanker Feudatory States. The greater part of this latter area consists of dense forests with precipitous mountains and ravines, which formerly rendered it impervious to Hindu invasion or immigration. It produces only on isolated stretches of culturable land the poorest rains crops, is sparsely peopled by primitive Gonds and other forest tribes, and until a comparatively short time ago was probably the wildest and the least known part of the whole peninsula. In recent years it has been opened up in all directions by good roads, constructed under Government supervision from the funds of the estates through which they pass.

Rivers.

5. With the exception of the small Vindhyan plateau and the northern part of the Chhota Nagpur States, the rivers of which flow north to Hindustan, and of the narrow valley of the Tapti in Nimar, practically the whole of the Central Provinces lies in the catchment basin of three rivers, the Nerbudda, the Godavari, and the Mahanadi. The Godavari itself, however, only skirts the south-western border of Chanda for a short distance; and it is to its tributaries, the Pranhita, formed by the junction of the Wardha and Wainganga, and the Indravati and other rivers from Bastar, that the important position of this river in the drainage system of the Province is due. Of the rivers

a larger proportion of whose course lies in the Province, the Nerbudda, Mahanadi, Wardha, and Wainganga are the chief, all of these having a length of some hundreds of miles within its limits. They resemble each other in that their sources and the greater part of their catchment basins lie at a considerable elevation above the sea; and owing to the rapid fall of level, they have cut for themselves deep beds many feet below the surface of the country which they drain. In the rainy season they become swift torrents; but when dry weather sets in they rapidly dwindle to a chain of stagnant pools, connected by an insignificant streamlet trickling over masses of rock or meandering through broad wastes of sand. The principal rivers of Berar are the Wardha, the Purna, and the Penganga. The Wardha forms the eastern boundary of the Division from its source in the Satpuras to its junction with the Penganga. The Purna, which is a tributary of the Tapti, drains the Payanghat, rising in the lower slopes of the Gawilgarh Hills in Amraoti District, and running westward through the valley until it leaves the Province at the northernmost corner of the Malkapur taluk. The Penganga rises in the hills near Deulghat in Buldana District, traverses that district in a south-easterly direction, and enters the Basim taluk near Wakad. From Yeoti eastwards it forms the southern boundary of Berar till it meets the Wardha at Jugad.

Scenery.

6. Though the scenery is on too small a scale to compare in sublimity with that of the Himalayas, it is on the other hand as far removed from the monotony of the plains of Hindustan. The recurring contrast of woodland and tillage and the alternation of hill and valley, wood and river, cannot but be grateful to eyes fatigued by the sameness of dusty Indian plains. In the Nerbudda valley during the pleasant winter months the eye may range over miles of green corn land, broken by low black boundary ridges or twisting footpaths. The horizon is bounded on either side by hill ranges which seem to rise abruptly from the plain; but on coming nearer to them, the heavy green of their slopes is found to be divided from the softer hues of the young wheat by broad belts of gravelly soil, carpeted with short sward and dotted with noble trees, recalling the appearance of an English park. On the Satpuras, the high and abrupt hills, clothed from summit to base with forest, and seamed by the deep courses of the streams, up which the roads twist and turn, disclosing to the traveller here and there a glimpse of the cultivated plain stretching far beneath him, and the plateau with its rolling steppes of basalt alternating with little valleys cultivated like gardens, present a variety of scenery not less attractive. But except at one period of the year the velvety freshness of an English landscape is wanting. During the hot months, the plains lying baked and scorched by the dry heat are as lifeless as a moor under a black frost. Even in the winter, though the wheat-growing tracts retain their freshness of appearance, the rice-fields quickly harden into an expanse of bare yellow stubble. But with the breaking of the monsoon all is changed. The abundant growth of vegetation, in an atmosphere like a hothouse, is so rapid as almost to be imagined perceptible; and the new foliage, clothed in the softest tints of green and glittering with rain-drops, covers the whole surface of a country which a month earlier seemed little better than an arid desert. Nor is the aspect less beautiful in September, when miles of continuous fields heavy with rice can be seen, the ripening ears of green or yellow changing in hue with the passing shadows of the clouds, while in the back ground wooded hills covered with darker coloured foliage fringe the horizon, and in the clear atmosphere of this season appear to be less than half their real distance away.

Geology of the Central Provinces.[1]

7. The six geological formations occurring in the Central Provinces may be arranged in the following order: Alluvium, the Deccan trap, the Gondwana system, the Vindhyan system, the Transition system, and the Gneissic system. The valley of the Nerbudda from Jubbulpore to Harda is a great alluvial flat, chiefly composed of a stiff reddish, yellowish, or brownish clay, with intercalated bands of sand and gravel. The thickness of the clay seldom exceeds 100 feet, but a boring made near Gadarwara attained a depth of 491 feet without reaching the base of the alluvial deposits. The deposits have yielded fossils consisting of shells and the bones of both extinct and existing animals, such as

[1] From a note by Mr. Bose of the Geological Survey.

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the elephant, rhinoceros, and hippopotamus. The only trace of man hitherto found in them consists of a chipped stone scraper or hatchet made of Vindhyan quartzite, unearthed eight miles north of Gadarwara.

8. The basaltic or volcanic rocks known as the Deccan trap cover a large area in the Central Provinces, occupying the greater portion of the Districts of Saugor, Jubbulpore, Mandla, Seoni, Chhindwara, Nimar, Nagpur and Wardha. They are horizontally stratified; and between layers of the igneous rocks, sedimentary beds containing numerous fresh-water fossils are found, showing that between the successive lava-flows sufficient epochs of time elapsed to allow life to appear again on the surface. The region covered by the volcanic rocks consists usually of undulating plains, divided from each other by flat-topped ranges of hills. The hill-sides are marked by conspicuous terraces, due to the outcrop of the harder basaltic strata, or of those beds which best resist the disintegrating influences of exposure. Distinguishing features of the trap area are the prevalence of long grass and the paucity of large trees, and the circumstance that almost all bushes and trees are deciduous. The black cotton soil found throughout this tract is believed to have been formed by the denudation of basalt rock, combined with the deposit of vegetable matter.

9. The Gondwana system corresponds to the marine older and middle mesozoic, and perhaps the upper palaeozoic formations of other countries, and is chiefly composed of sandstones and shales, which appear to have been deposited in fresh water and probably by rivers. As a general rule, these rocks occupy basin-shaped depressions in the older formations, which sometimes correspond to the existing river valleys. Remains of animals are rare; and the few which have hitherto been found belong chiefly to the lower vertebrate classes of reptiles, amphibians and fishes. Plant remains are more common, and evidence of several successive floras has been detected. The main areas of Gondwana rocks in the Central Provinces are in the Satpura range, in the basin of the Godavari in Nagpur, Wardha, and Chanda Districts, and in the Bilaspur *zamindari* and some of the Feudatory States. The formation is divided into the Upper and Lower Gondwanas, according to the character of the fossils found in them; and each of these is further sub-divided into groups, several of which occur in the Central Provinces, but cannot be separately described. The sandstone of the Pachmarhi hills belongs to the Mahadeo group of Upper Gondwanas. The rocks consist chiefly of beds of coarse sandstone and conglomerate, marked with ferruginous bands and attaining a thickness of 10,000 feet. The sandstones form high ranges of hills and often weather into vertical scarps of great height, making conspicuous cliffs in the forest, and contrasting strongly with the black precipices of the Deccan trap, and the rounded irregular masses of the more granitoid metamorphic rocks. Scarcely any fossils have been found in these rocks. To the Gondwana formation also belongs the Barakar Group of the Damuda series, which furnishes the coal found in Korba, the Tawa valley, Mohpani, and the Wardha valley.

10. Next in point of age is the Vindhyan series, which consists principally of sandstones, shales and limestones, and is divided into the Upper and Lower Vindhyans. The Upper Vindhyan rocks in Saugor and Damoh are composed of hard red masses of sandstone, with alternations of shale. There is only one important band of limestone. Extensive stretches of Lower Vindhyan rocks occur in Raipur, Bilaspur and Bastar; they are composed of quartzitic sandstone superimposed by blue or purple limestone and shale. The Vindhyan rocks have not yielded any authenticated fossils, but it is improbable that their deposition was anterior to the existence of life. The transition or sub-metamorphic formation is believed to be somewhat earlier than the Lower Vindhyans. Rocks belonging to this system, consisting of quartzite, hornstone, breccia and limestone, occur in the western portion of Hoshangabad near Handia and on the Moran river. Low hills of cherty limestone and breccia are also seen in Narsinghpur, and some strata are exposed in Jubbulpore. Transition rocks underlying the surface strata cover a large area in the districts of Mandla, Bhandara, Balaghat, Raipur, and Bilaspur. Gneissic or metamorphic rocks, the oldest known formation, cover large portions of the plateau districts, and in the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh plains underlie the more recent formations.

Geology of Berar.[1]

11. With the exception of the south-eastern corner, comprising a portion of Yeotmal, the whole of Berar is covered by the Deccan trap-flows. In the south-eastern corner the trap has been removed by atmospheric agencies, exposing small patches of the underlying Lameta beds and the great Godavari trough of Gondwana rocks. These latter are let down into very old unfossiliferous Purana strata, are regarded as pre-Cambrian in age, and are known in other parts of peninsular India as Vindhyans, Cuddapahs, &c. The Deccan trap is itself covered with alluvium in the valley of the Purna. The groups represented in Berar can be tabulated thus—

Alluvium	...	... Recent and pleistocene.
Deccan trap	...	... Upper Cretaceous or lower eocene.
Lameta	...	... Upper Cretaceous.
Gondwana	...	... Permo-carboniferous to Jurassic.
Purana	...	... Pre-Cambrian.

The old rocks of the Purana group come to the surface on the south-eastern margin of the great cap of Deccan trap, occupying the border out to the main boundary of the Gondwana strata. They are covered by two small isolated patches of Deccan trap—outliers south-east of Kayar—and with some outliers of Gondwana beds in the Vaidarbha valley and farther west. In one or two small hills in this corner of the province the distinction between the Purana sandstones and the much later sandstones belonging to the Kampti division of the Gondwana system is seen. Yanak hill (1,005 feet) is formed of Purana sandstone, and several bands of conglomerate occur containing pebbles of hematite, from which the iron ore formerly smelted at Yanak was obtained. Shales, slates, and limestones of the Purana group prevail to the west of the sandstone bed in Yeotmal, giving some magnificent sections in the Penganga and its tributaries.

12. The Gondwana rocks are especially worthy of notice, on account of their coal measures. It has been estimated that about 2,100,000,000 tons of coal are available in Yeotmal. Direct evidence of the occurrence of coal has been obtained throughout 13 miles of country from Wun to Papur and for 10 miles from Junara to Chincholi. It is estimated that there are 150,000,000 tons above the 500 feet level between Junara and Chincholi; and the existence of thick coal has been proved in the Barakars which crop out near the Wardha river in the south-eastern part of Yeotmal.

13. The Deccan trap, with which the greater part of Berar is covered, was erupted towards the end of Cretaceous times, the volcanic activity stretching on, probably, into the beginning of the Tertiary period. At the base, and stretching beyond the fringe, of the Deccan trap, there is often a fresh-water, or sub-aerial, formation, composed of clays, sandstones and limestones representing the materials formed by weathering or actually deposited in water on the old continent over which the Deccan lava-flows spread. The hollow containing the lake of Lonar in Buldana was probably caused by violent gaseous explosion long after the eruption of the Deccan trap, and in comparatively recent times. An interesting feature of the alluvial deposits in the valley of the Purna is the occurrence of salt in some of the beds at a little depth below the surface. Wells used formerly to be sunk on both sides of the river for the purpose of obtaining brine from the gravelly layers. The absence of fossils supports the idea that the salt is not derived from marine beds, but is in all probability due to the concentration of the salts ordinarily carried in underground water through the excessive surface evaporation which goes on in these dry areas for most of the year.

Agriculture. Soils.

14. Roughly speaking, four distinct kinds of agricultural land are found in the Central Provinces. The first is the heavy black soil which covers the Nerbudda valley and the open and level portions of the Vindhyan and Satpura plateaux. It is either alluvial, formed by the deposit of decayed vegetable matter, through the agency of rivers and streams, or has resulted from the decomposition of trap or basalt rock, or from a combination of both agents. This land is suited to the growth of wheat, linseed, gram, and other cold-weather crops which are dependent on the moisture remaining in the ground from the monsoon rainfall, and on

[1] From a note by Sir Thomas Holland, K. C. I. E., Director of the Geological Survey of India.

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the showers received during the months of December and January. Water is usually found only at a great depth from the surface, and irrigation is consequently little employed. Embankments to save erosion and hold up water, and careful tillage, are the main requisites for cultivation. The second class of land consists of shallow black soil, lying in a thin sheet over the surface of the basaltic rock from which it has been decomposed. Land of this description predominates in Nimar, Wardha, the west of Nagpur, and the south of Chhindwara. It is suited for the growth of cotton, juar, and other autumn crops requiring only the light rainfall which these tracts obtain. The soil responds readily to manure, and the application of industry largely increases the outturn. The third class of land includes the light sandy and stony uplands of the Vindhyan and Satpura ranges and the hilly country in the south, where the soil is either very shallow or contains a large proportion of gravel mixed with boulders. Lands of this description are the poorest in the Province; they require long resting fallows, and the cheap millets which they produce, constituting the main food-grain of the aboriginal cultivators who raise them, are entirely dependent on the rainfall of August and September. The last kind of land consists of yellow and sandy soil, formed from metamorphic or crystalline rock. This is the principal feature of the Wainganga and Mahanadi basins, including the south of Balaghat, Bhandara, and Chanda, and the three Chhattisgarh districts which form the rice lands of the Province. The rainfall is heavy and the land, though of little natural fertility, responds readily to manure and irrigation.

15. The three natural divisions of Berar have already been described. The Melghat, or northern division, is extremely rugged, and is broken into a succession of hills and deep valleys. The hilly portion consist of basaltic and calcareous rock, and the soil in the valleys and ravines is a light brown alluvium, overlying basalt accumulated from superficial rainwash from the hills. This light brown soil, extending to about 8 or 10 miles from the foot of the hills towards the valley of the Purna, is culturable, but is less rich than the soil of the valley itself. The Balaghat, or southern division, is formed of undulating high land of the Deccan trap. The plateaux are covered with fairly rich soil, and the soil of the intermediate valleys is an alluvium of loam of remarkably fine quality and very suitable for wheat. The Payanghat, or central valley of Berar, contains the best land in the province, a deep, rich, black, and exceedingly fertile loam, often of great depth, with very thick underlying strata of yellow clay and lime. Where this rich soil does not exist, as in the immediate vicinity of hills, murum and trap are found with a shallow upper crust of inferior light soil. A great deal of the Purna alluvium produces efflorescences, chiefly of salts of soda, and many of the wells sunk in this tract have brackish water.

16. Broadly speaking, the districts north of the Satpuras produce principally cold-weather crops, such as wheat and gram. Of those south of the Satpuras, the eastern ones produce principally rice, and the western ones (Berar and the Nagpur Country) cotton and juar. In the Satpura districts the inferior soil is principally devoted to hill millets. With the exception of the monsoon of 1907, which was a partial failure, the rainfall of the past ten years has on the whole been favourable, and the Province has given striking evidence of its powers of recuperation by the rapidity with which it has thrown off the effects of the disasters which marked the previous decade. The agricultural progress of the decade is described as follows in the "Memorandum of the condition of the people during the decennial period 1902—1912," published by the Director of Agriculture and Industries:—

"Taking 100 to represent a normal crop on a normal area, the figure reached by the crops of the decade is 88: in view, however, of the general tendency to under-estimate returns in prosperous years, this figure is probably too low. The corresponding figure for the preceding decade was 73, and this, owing to the large number of bad years, probably represents more correctly the real conditions of the period. The net-cropped area for the Central Provinces proper reached a maximum of 15,900,000 acres before the beginning of the famine cycle; it now stands at 17,700,000 acres. The net-cropped area for the whole Province has increased during the decade from 24,100,000 to 24,900,000 acres. The cotton area has expanded from 3,900,000 to 4,481,000 acres. All crops, excepting wheat, have recovered their normal area. The number of

cropped acres per plough-animal averaged 6 during the period between 1892 and 1901: during the last decade there were on an average 4 acres to each plough-animal. * * * . The famine cycle has left a few marks on the agricultural practice of the Province. The increase in the wheat embankments of the Nerbudda Valley and Chhattisgarh, in the irrigation wells of Nimar and tanks of Chhattisgarh, and in the stone and brush-wood works for the prevention of erosion that are now so common in the cotton country, are all due to a desire on the part of the people to secure themselves as far as possible against famine losses."

Climate and temperature.

17. Climatically, the districts of the Provinces fall into two main divisions, Saugor and Damoh on the Vindhyan plateau, Jubbulpore at the head of the Nerbudda valley, Mandla, Seoni, Betul, Chhindwara, and the Ellichpur taluq of Amraoti on the Satpura uplands, and Buldana in the Ajanta hills, enjoying a distinctly lower average temperature than the rest of the Province. This difference is partly to be attributed to the greater elevation of these districts, and also in the case of Saugor, Damoh and Jubbulpore, to the fact that they receive the westerly winds which blow across Northern India during most of the dry season, but which do not come south of the Satpura range. Taking Nagpur and Jubbulpore as typical examples, the mean difference of temperature in favour of the latter reaches a maximum of 7° during January, February and March. It falls to 6° in December, 5° in November, 4° in April and October, and 3° in May, while during the four months of the monsoon the variation is only about a degree. The main difference between the climates of the two places is in the cold season, when Jubbulpore has a considerably lower temperature, while in the summer the heat does not become oppressive until the middle of April, or a month later than in Nagpur. Jubbulpore and the Vindhyan and Satpura districts all experience slight frosts which sometimes do considerable damage to the spring crops, but ice is seldom seen except in the interior of Mandla and occasionally in other districts of the Satpura plateau. Excluding those already mentioned, the climate of the remaining eleven districts does not differ materially from that of Nagpur, except that Narsinghpur and Hoshangabad in the Nerbudda valley enjoy a lower temperature in the winter months, as they participate in the cold winds which are prevalent north of the Satpura range. The Chhattisgarh districts are very slightly cooler than Nagpur. The mean temperature at Nagpur in January is 70°, varying between 83° and 56°; in May 96°, varying between 109° and 82°; and in July 82°, varying between 88° and 75°. When the rains have properly set in, the mean temperature falls by 14°, and the fact that this season is not unpleasantly hot constitutes the great advantage of the climate. The variation in temperature is much lower during the rains than at any other season. The maximum shade temperature recorded in the Central Provinces is 119° at Chanda and the minimum 30° at Pachmarhi.

Rainfall.

18. The annual rainfall of the Central Provinces averages 48·26 inches, varying from 31·11 inches in Nimar to 62·15 in Balaghat. Pachmarhi with 75·33 inches is the station having the highest record. In Berar the rainfall averages 31·46 inches, varying from 27·82 in Akola to 37·17 in Yeotmal. The mean for Chanda, Bhandara, Balaghat, and the three Chhattisgarh districts, where rice is the principal crop, is 53 inches. Mandla, Seoni and Jubbulpore receive 50 inches or more, and the other districts under 50 inches. Of the annual Provincial total, three-fourths are received during the months of June, July and August, about 9 to 10 inches during September and October, and the remainder in the other seven months. The bulk of the rainfall is received from the Arabian Sea current of the south-west monsoon, but cyclonic storms advancing from the Bay of Bengal also give rain to the rice districts in the east. The normal date of the breaking of the monsoon in the Central Provinces is June 10th, while the rainfall caused by the advance of the south-west monsoon usually ceases in the second or third week of October. During November and December isolated falls are received from the retreating current of the south-west monsoon, but these are usually lighter in the Central Provinces than in Northern India. In January and February slight storms may occur, advancing from the north-west. These are somewhat more frequent in the north than in the south of the Province. Any rain which may be received during the hot-weather

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months is as a rule due to purely local conditions, masses of hot air being raised by the action of the wind to a sufficient height to produce condensation. As a rule, about an inch of rain only is received during the hot season. Hailstorms sometimes occur in the cold-weather months, particularly in the northern districts.

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History.[1] Central Provinces: Early period.

19. Over a great part of the Central Provinces the dawn of the epoch of authentic history may be placed at a period not much more than three centuries ago. To the people of Northern India it was known as Gondwana, an unexplored country of inaccessible mountains and impenetrable forests, inhabited by the savage tribes of Gonds from whom it took its name. The Musalman expeditions organized for the invasion of the Deccan thus ordinarily left the forests of Gondwana to the east, and traversed the Nerbudda valley through the pass commanded by the famous hill fort of Asirgarh. But Gondwana was not entirely outside the range of adventurous exploration in the early heroic ages of Hinduism. The Ramayana represents Rama as traversing the forest of Dandaka, extending from the Jamna to the Godavari, on his way to the hermitage of Sutikshna at Ramtek near Nagpur. In the course of centuries a number of Rajput principalities were established, and a considerable portion of the open country was subjected to their authority. Our knowledge of these is mainly derived from coins, a few inscriptions on copper or stone, the ruins of some ancient cities, and incidental statements in the ballads of Rajput annalists. The existence of one of Asoka's rock edicts at Rupnath in Jubbulpore proves that his empire embraced this portion of the Central Provinces. Inscriptions at Eran in Saugor District in the fourth and fifth centuries A. D. show that Eran and the surrounding country were included in the dominions of the great Gupta dynasty of Magadha, and shortly after fell under the rule of the White Hun Toramana. From certain inscriptions found in Seoni and the Ajanta caves, it has been concluded that the Vakataka dynasty was ruling over the Satpura plateau and the Nagpur plain from the third century A. D., the name of the perhaps semi-mythical hero who founded it being given as Vindhyasakti. The capital of these princes is supposed to have been at Bhandak in Chanda, in ancient times a considerable town. A portion of the Nagpur plain, comprising Nagpur and Wardha Districts, belonged to the old Hindu kingdom of Vidarbha (Berar), which was in existence during the second century B. C.; and these Districts subsequently passed successively to the Andhra dynasty of the Telugu country (A. D. 113) and the Rashtrakuta Rajputs of the Deccan (A. D. 750—1087). In the north of the Province the Kalachuri or Chedi dynasty of Haihaya Rajputs ruled over the upper valley of the Nerbudda, with their capital at Tripura or Karanbel, where the village of Tewar now stands near Jubbulpore. They used a special era in dating their inscriptions, which points to the establishment of their power in the third century A. D., but nothing is known of the line before the ninth century, and it is last referred to in an inscription dated 1181. From the ninth to the twelfth centuries Saugor and Damoh were probably included in the territories of the Chandel Rajput princes of Mahoba. At about the same period the present fortress of Asirgarh was held by Chauhan Rajputs. The Paramara Kingdom of Malwa may have extended over the western part of the Nerbudda valley between the eleventh and the thirteenth centuries; and an inscription found at Nagpur and dated 1104-05 shows that at least one Paramara King, Lakshman Deva, included the Nagpur plain within the circle of his dominions. In Chhattisgarh another Haihaya Rajput dynasty, perhaps akin to the rulers of Chedi, established itself at Ratanpur, and extended its authority over the greater part of the territory included in the present Districts of Raipur and Bilaspur.

The Gond kingdoms.

20. The inscriptions carry us down to the eleventh or twelfth century, after which there is a blank until the rise of the Gond powers in the fifteenth or sixteenth. The earliest Gond kingdom to emerge into prominence was that of Kherla near Betul. It first appears in 1398, when Narsingh Rai, Raja of Kherla, is said by Firishta to have had great wealth and power, being possessed of all the hills of Gondwana and other countries. He took part in the wars between the Bahmani kings and those of Malwa and Khandesh. His territories were finally invaded by Hoshang Shah, king of Malwa, and Narsingh Rai was defeated and slain at the head

[1] From the article in the Provincial Gazetteer of the Central Provinces.

of an army of 50,000 men, a large booty, including eighty-four elephants, falling to the victors. In the sixteenth century Sangram Sah, the forty-seventh Raja of the Gond line of Garha-Mandla, issuing from the Mandla highlands, extended his dominion over fifty-two garhs or districts, comprising Saugor, Damoh, and possibly Bhopal, the Nerbudda valley, and Mandla and Seoni on the Satpura highlands. The Mandla dynasty is believed to have commenced about A. D. 664 with the accession of Jadho Rai, a Rajput adventurer, who entered the service of an old Gond chieftain, married his daughter, and succeeded him on the throne. But it remained a petty local chiefship until Sangram Sah's accession in 1480. About two hundred years after Sangram Sah's time, Bakht Buland, the chief of a Gond principality, with its head-quarters at Deogarh in Chhindwara, proceeded to Delhi, and appreciating the advantages of the civilization which he there witnessed determined to set about the development of his own territories. To this end he invited Hindu artificers and husbandmen to settle in the plain country and founded the City of Nagpur, to which his successor removed the capital. The Deogarh kingdom extended over the modern districts of Betul, Chhindwara, Nagpur, and portions of Seoni, Bhandara, and Balaghat. In the south of the Province the walled town of Chanda was the seat of another dynasty which also came into prominence in the sixteenth century, when one of its princes, Babaji Ballal Shah, is stated to have visited Delhi and to have held the position of an independent prince with an army of 1,000 cavalry and 40,000 infantry. The Chanda territories included most of that district and a portion at least of Berar, as their device of a winged lion has been found on the walls of Gawilgarh, a stronghold which controlled these lowlands. Thus for a certain period the simultaneous dominion of the three houses of Garha-Mandla, Deogarh, and Chanda united almost the whole of Gondwana under the sway of aboriginal princes. Their subjection to the Mughal emperors was scarcely more than nominal. Though Garha was included in the lists of Akbar's possessions as a subdivision of his *Subah* of Malwa, its chiefs were practically so far from the ken of the Mughal court that, except on occasions of disputed succession or other difficulties, their history runs in a channel of its own, unaffected by the imperial policy. And the princes of Chanda and Deogarh, after their first submission to Delhi, seem to have been practically even more independent than their northern neighbour.

Limits of Muhammadan conquest.

21. Muhammadan conquest penetrated, however, to the north-western portion of the Province during the reign of Sangram Sah's successor, whose widow Durgavati was defeated and killed by a Mughal general in 1564. A *Subah* was established at Handia, which included the western part of Hoshangabad; Saugor, Damoh, and Bhopal were also occupied during the sixteenth century, and a fort and garrison were maintained at Dhamoni in the north of Saugor. Nimar formed no part of Gondwana, and had for the two preceding centuries been included in the Faruki kingdom of Khandesh, when in 1600 Akbar captured the fortress of Asirgarh from the last of the Paruki kings and annexed Khandesh. At a later period when Berar also had become a Mughal province, Ashti and Paunar in Wardha and Kherla in Betul were the head-quarters of Muhammadan officers during the reign of Jahangir. The Mughal empire included therefore a strip along the western border of the Province, while the centre was occupied by the Gond kingdoms, and in Chhattisgarh the old Haihaivansi Rajput dynasty remained in power.

Nature of the Gond kingdoms.

22. The outlying territories of the Gond Rajas seem to have been distributed among feudatory chiefs, paying a trifling revenue, but bound to attend upon the prince at his capital, with a stipulated number of troops, whenever their services were required. The princes, like the people, were of an easy, unambitious disposition, rarely seeking foreign conquests after their first establishment, and anxious only to stave off by concessions the evil day of dissolution. Under their uneventful sway, the country over which they ruled prospered, while with a liberal policy they invited Hindu immigrants from the north, and entrusted to them the reclamation of the rich land in the Nerbudda valley and Nagpur plain. The group of semi-barbaric chieftains and their retainers, who constituted the fighting strength of a Gond state, possessed only an insignificant power of resistance to anything approaching the character of an organized force. The existence of the Muhammadan empire probably contributed to their stability, the Mughal

from his distant court at Agra being content with obtaining from the lords of these rugged hills the nominal submission which was sufficient to prevent any break in the continuity of his vast dominions. But when on the ruins of the empire arose the predatory Maratha and Bundela powers who knew no such forbearance, while at the same time the increased wealth of the country had made it worth coveting, the Gonds succumbed almost without a struggle.

The Maratha conquest.

23. During the seventeenth century Chhatarsal, the well-known Bundela Rajput chief, wrested a part of the Vindhyan plateau and the Nerbudda valley from the Mandla territories, only himself to lose them shortly afterwards to a stronger power. The first invasion of Bundelkhand by the forces of the Peshwa took place in 1733, and two years afterwards commenced the rule of the Maratha pandits of Saugor. In 1742 the Peshwa advanced to Mandla and exacted the tribute of *chauth* or one-fourth of the revenue, amounting to four lakhs of rupees. From this time the Mandla kingdom lay at the mercy of the Marathas, by whom it was finally extinguished in 1781 after a duration of three centuries from the time of Sangram Sah. The fall of the Deogarh and Chanda kingdoms was even more rapid. On the death of Chand Sultan, successor of Bakhat Buland, in 1739, disputes as to the succession led to the intervention of Raghuji Bhonsla of Berar. In 1743 he established himself at Nagpur, reducing the Gond king to the position of a nominal sovereign, and between that year and 1751 effected the conquest of the Deogarh territories, Chanda and Chhattisgarh. Ratanpur, the capital of the Haihaivansi kingdom, had capitulated without a blow in 1741 on the advance of the Maratha general Bhaskar Pant; and four years later, with the deposition of the last Raja, a Rajput dynasty, whose annals go back almost to the commencement of the Christian era, ignominiously ended. In 1740 Raghuji Bhonsla made a raid on the Carnatic, and immediately afterwards commenced a series of expeditions to Bengal, which terminated after a contest of ten years in the acquisition by the Marathas of Cuttack and the promise of twelve lakhs annually from Ali Vardi Khan as the *chauth* of Bengal. Raghuji I died in 1755, and the Nagpur kingdom continued to expand under his successors. By the concession of a nominal authority to the Gond Raja of Deogarh, who conferred the *tika* on the Bhonslas on their accession, and had the right of putting his seal to certain revenue papers, Raghuji had to his hand a pretext for disavowing, if expedient, the rights of the Peshwa as his overlord. In practice, however, reference was usually made to the Poona court in important matters, such as those affecting the succession; and in 1769 Janoji, the son of Raghuji I, after being defeated by a combination of the Nizam and the Peshwa, was forced to acknowledge the latter's supremacy, and to agree to attend him in person with a contingent of six thousand men whenever called upon, besides paying an annual tribute of five lakhs. In 1785 the next Raja, Mudhoji, obtained the cession of Mandla and the upper Nerbudda valley from the Poona court in return for a payment of 27 lakhs, and this was followed by the acquisition of Hoshangabad and the greater part of Saugor and Damoh in 1796-8.

The Nagpur kingdom.

24. The Nagpur kingdom was now at its greatest extent. Under Raghuji II, Mudhoji's successor, it included practically the whole of the present Central Provinces and Berar, besides Orissa, and some of the Chhota Nagpur States. The revenue of these territories was about a crore of rupees. Raghuji's army consisted of 18,000 horse and 25,000 infantry, of which 11,000 were regular battalions, besides 4,000 Arabs. His field artillery included about 90 pieces of ordnance. The military force was for the most part raised outside the limits of the state, the cavalry being recruited from Poona, while, besides the Arabs, adventurers from Northern India and Rajputana were largely enlisted in the infantry. Up to 1803 the Maratha administration was on the whole successful. The Bhonslas, at least the first four of them, were military chiefs with the habits of rough soldiers, connected by blood, and by constant familiar intercourse, with all their principal officers. Descended from the class of cultivators, they ever favoured and fostered that order, and though rapacious were seldom cruel to the people. Of Janoji, the successor of Raghuji I, it is recorded that the king did not spare himself, being referred to in the smallest as well as the greatest matters of state; nor did any inconvenience or delay to the public service arise from this system, for even when not sitting actually in Darbar the Raja was always accessible to any person who had business to propound to him.

25. Up to 1803 the relations of the court of Nagpur with the British had been generally friendly; but in that year Raghuji II was induced to join Sindhia in an alliance against them. The confederate chiefs were decisively defeated at Assaye and Argaon; and by the treaty of Deogaon Raghuji was obliged to cede Cuttack, Sambalpur, and a part of Berar and to agree to the permanent appointment of a British Resident at his court. From this time Raghuji, nicknamed by his people the big Bania, threw off all restraint in his unwillingness to show a reduced front to the world. Not only did he rackrent and screw the farming and cultivating classes, but he took advantage of the necessities which his own acts had created to lend them money at high interest. All revenue reports of those times teem with accounts of the cruel but ingenious processes by which the Maratha collectors slowly bled the people.

Maratha mal-administration.

26. The period from 1803 to 1818 was perhaps the most disastrous through which the country has had to pass. On the death of Raghuji II in 1816, his son, an imbecile, was soon supplanted and murdered by the well-known Mudhoji, otherwise Appa Sahib. A treaty of alliance for the maintenance of a subsidiary force by the British was signed in this year. In 1817, on the outbreak of war between the British and the Peshwa, Appa Sahib threw off his cloak of friendship, and accepted an embassy and title from the Peshwa. His troops attacked the British, but were decisively repulsed at Sitabaldi, and subsequently compelled to evacuate Nagpur. As a result of these battles, the remaining portion of Berar was ceded to the Nizam of Hyderabad and the territories in the Nerbudda valley to the British. Appa Sahib was reinstated on the throne, but shortly afterwards, intrigues being discovered, was deposed and forwarded towards Allahabad in custody. On the way, however, he made his escape and ultimately fled to the Punjab. A grandchild of Raghuji II was then placed on the throne and the Nagpur territories were administered by the Resident, Sir Richard Jenkins, from 1818 to 1830, in which year the young ruler known as Raghuji III was allowed to assume the actual government. During this period the restoration of internal tranquillity under a strong rule, and moderate taxation, gave the sorely harassed country an opportunity to recover, and it attained a fair measure of prosperity. For the next twenty years the methods of administration introduced by Sir Richard Jenkins were broadly adhered to, and the government was fairly successful. Raghuji III died in 1853, and his territories were then declared to have lapsed to the paramount power. The Nagpur province, consisting of the present Nagpur Division, with Chhindwara and Chhattisgarh, was administered by a Commissioner under the Government of India until the formation of the Central Provinces in 1861.

Cessions to the British and escheat of the Nagpur territories.

27. Of the northern Districts, those parts of Saugor and Damoh which still belonged to the Peshwa were ceded by him in 1817, and the remainder, with Mandla, Betul, Seoni, and the Nerbudda valley, were obtained from Appa Sahib in 1818. In 1820 this area, with the designation of 'The Saugor and Nerbudda Territories,' was placed under the administration of an Agent to the Governor-General. On the constitution of the North-Western Provinces in 1835, the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories were included in them. In 1842 occurred the Bundela rising, which originated in an attempt of two landholders in Saugor to resist the execution of civil court decrees. They killed a number of police, and being joined by some Gond chiefs burnt and plundered several towns. Order was not restored until the following year, and in consequence of these disturbances, the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories were again placed under the political control of an Agent to the Governor-General. This arrangement, however, was not found to be satisfactory, and they were restored to the North-Western Provinces in 1853. After the Mutiny the existence of these two isolated pieces of territory in the centre of India, too remote from the head-quarters of any Local Government to be administered efficiently, led to the determination to form a fresh Province, which was carried into effect in 1861.

The Saugor and Nerbudda Territories.

28. The history of the first three decades after the formation of the Province is an almost unbroken record of progressive prosperity, checked only by an occasional famine and bad season, and unmarked by any salient events. Writing of

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this period in 1892, Mr. (now Sir Bampfylde) Fuller says:[1] "At the time of their formation, the Provinces were particularly inaccessible for outside traffic, and there were no very large towns to supply a local market for surplus produce. * * * *.

"Circumstances have now entirely changed. A line of railway runs right through the Nerbudda valley, connecting the country with the port of Bombay on one side, with the port of Calcutta on the other, and, by northerly extensions, with the large towns of Upper India to the North. A second trunk line runs through the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh plains, similarly connecting them with Calcutta and Bombay. A cross line connects the Chhattisgarh plain with the Nerbudda valley. The Provinces only require a cross line from Nagpur to the Nerbudda valley to be complete in their railway system.

"The construction of these railways has been by far the most important circumstance in the history of the Provinces, and has affected the people much more than any other measure of Government. They have not only added immensely to the silver value of the produce, but have, by the development of trade, led to a much larger increase in production than would have come about from the pressure of population."

29. The years 1892-1902 were marked by a series of partial crop-failures, culminating in the disastrous famines of 1897 and 1900. How the Provinces emerged from its trial may be seen from the following extract from an official memorandum[2] on the condition of the people during this period.

"Famine is the dominant note in the history of the past decade, and its black shadow has been cast over almost every section of the community. The cultivator of the cotton tracts has recovered entirely from its effect and is now as well, if not better, off than he ever was. The wheat grower of the northern districts has shown wonderful staying power against an unparalleled succession of bad seasons which, given good seasons, will soon enable him to regain the substantial position he held of old. The rice cultivator, with his large population to support, has shown the least power of resistance. But he has by no means given way to despair; some have, no doubt, gone under beyond hope of recovery, but the rest have been tenacious of their land. The unstinted liberality of Government with its famine relief, its remissions, its abatements, its conciliation proceedings, has inspired all classes with a feeling of hope, which is one of the brightest auguries of future recovery. The improvement of communications, the exploitation of rich mineral resources, the development of cotton mills, the extension of education, have encouraged industrial development. And if the two grievous calamities of the decade have adversely affected material well-being, they have stimulated moral development. Legislative measures have been taken for the protection of agriculturists; disaster has rudely shaken the complacent idea that whatever is, is best, a promising spirit of enquiry is afloat, and the tide is setting strongly towards agricultural improvement and industrial advance."

30. The salient events in the history of the Province during the past decade[3] were the accession of Berar to the Province in 1903, the construction of the Satpura and other narrow gauge railways between the years 1901 and 1907, and the energetic irrigation policy pursued by Government since the famine of 1907. The effects of the first have not yet fully shown themselves; one of them has been a shifting of the political and economic balance of the Province to an even greater extent than before in favour of the Maratha tract and Nagpur; another, a large addition to the Government revenues, leading to greater efficiency in administration; the third, an increased provincial interest in the valuable cotton crop, and in the industries which are concerned in its export and manufacture. The effect of the narrow gauge lines has been an opening up to cultivation and colonisation of hitherto undeveloped areas, and a great addition to the value of the national forest estate. The economic effect of the irrigation policy has been slight as yet: but it is destined to have very important results in the future.

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[1] Review of the progress of the Central Provinces during the past 30 years, by J. B. Fuller, Esq., C. I. E., I. C. S., Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture, 1892.

[2] Memorandum on the condition of the people of the Central Provinces during the decennial period 1892—1902, by F. G. Sly, Esq., I. C. S., Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture.

[3] Memorandum on the condition of the people of the Central Provinces during the decennial period 1902—12, by C. E. Low, Esq., C. I. E., I. C. S., Director of Agriculture and Industries.

Berar.[1] Legendary period.

31. Berar was anciently known as Vidarbha, under which name it is mentioned in the Mahabharata. In this epic the Raja of Vidarbha, Rukmin, is represented as an arrogant and presumptuous prince, who vainly attempted to prevent the marriage of his sister Rukmini to the demi-god Krishna, and who subsequently so disgusted the Pandavas by his pretensions that they declined his assistance in their quarrel with the Kauravas, leaving him to retire in dudgeon to his own dominions. The next mention of Vidarbha is in connexion with the famous Oriental romance of Nala and Damayanti. Nala, Raja of Nishadha (Malwa), loved Damayanti, the daughter of Bhima Raja of Vidarbha. It is unnecessary to pursue this story, which is mainly mythical, through its intricacies of details; but we learn from it that the kingdom of Vidarbha had for its capital a city of the same name, with which the city of Bidar in the Nizam's Dominions has been identified. If the identification be correct, and it is supported by legend as well as by etymology, we may conclude that the ancient kingdom was far more extensive than the modern province of Berar. Tradition says that its kings bore sway over the whole of the Deccan.

Hindu rule.

32. The authentic history of Berar commences with the Andhras or Satavahanas, of whose dominions it undoubtedly formed part. In the third century B.C., the Andhras occupied the deltas of the Godavari and Kistna, and were one of the tribes on the outer fringe of Asoka's empire. Soon after the death of that great ruler their territory was rapidly enlarged, and their sway reached Nasik. The twenty-third king, Vilivayakura I (A. D. 113—38), successfully warred against his neighbours, the western Satraps of Gujarat and Kathiawar, whose predecessors had encroached on the Andhra kingdom. A few years later, however, the Satraps were victorious, and the Andhra rule appears to have come to an end about 236. The next rulers of the province of whom records have survived were the Rajas of the Vakataka dynasty, of whom there were ten. This dynasty was probably feudatory to the Vallabhis, but their chronology is very uncertain. The Abhiras or Ahirs, who succeeded the Vakatakas, are said to have reigned as independent sovereigns for only sixty-seven years; but Ahir and Gaoli chieftains continued long afterwards to hold important forts in Berar and the neighbouring country, giving their names to their strongholds, as in the case of Gaoligarh in Khandesh, Asirgarh (Asa Ahir Garh) in the Central Provinces, and Gawilgarh in Berar. The Chalukyas next rose to power in the Deccan. Their dominions included Berar, and they reigned until 750, when they were overthrown by the Rashtrakutas, who ruled till 973, when the Chalukayas regained their ascendancy, which they retained, though not without vicissitudes, for two centuries. On the death, in 1189, of Somesvara IV, the last Raja of the restored Chalukya line, his dominions were divided between the Hoysala Ballalas of the south, whose capital was Dorasamudra or Dwaravatipura,[2] and the Yadavas of Deogiri, the modern Daulatabad, Berar, naturally falling to the share of the latter. Raja Bhillama I, the founder of this dynasty, established himself at Deogiri in 1188; and the Yadavas had reigned with some renown for rather more than a century, when, in the reign of Ramchandra, the sixth Raja, the Deccan was invaded by the Musalmans.

Muhammadan period.

33. In 1294 Ala-ud-din, the nephew and son-in-law of Firoz Shah Khilji, Sultan of Delhi, invaded the Deccan by way of Chanderi and Ellichpur. After defeating the Yadava Raja, Ramchandra, styled Ramdeo by Muhammadan historians, at Deogiri, he was attacked by the Raja's son, whom also he defeated. He was then bought out of the country by a heavy ransom, which included the cession of the revenues of Ellichpur, the district remaining under Hindu administration. On his return to Hindustan Ala-ud-din murdered his uncle at Kara and usurped the throne. Throughout his reign he dispatched successive expeditions into the Deccan, but in the confusion which followed his death in 1316 Harpal Deo of Deogiri rose in rebellion. He was defeated by Kutub-ud-din Mubarak Shah I in 1317-8, and was flayed alive, his skin being nailed to one of the gates of Deogiri. His dominions were annexed to the Delhi empire, and thus Berar for the first time became a Muhammadan possession, which it has remained ever since. Berar gained considerably in importance during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlak of Delhi, who in 1327 transferred the capital of his empire from Delhi to

[1] From the article in the Provincial Gazetteer of Berar.
[2] Halebid, in Hassan District, Mysore.

Daulatabad (Deogiri). In the latter years of his emperor's reign the Amirs of the Deccan rebelled, and in 1348 Hasan Gangu, Zafar Khan, was proclaimed Sultan of the Deccan under the title of Ala-ud-din Bahman Shah.[1]

Bahmani dynasty.

34. Ala-ud-din Bahman, shortly after he had ascended the throne, divided his kingdom into four Provinces or *tarafs*, of which Berar, which included Mahur, Ramgarh and Pathri, was the northernmost. During the next 130 years Berar furnished contingents in the innumerable wars waged by the Bahmani kings against the Rajas of Vijayanagar, Telingana, Orissa, and the Konkan, the Sultans of Gujarat, Malwa, and Khandesh, and the Gonds. It was overrun by Musalmans from the independent kingdoms on its northern frontier, by Gonds from Chanda, and by Hindus from Telingana. Ahmad Shah Wali, the ninth king of the Bahmani dynasty, found it necessary to recapture the forts of Mahur and Kalam in Eastern Berar, which had fallen into the hands of the infidels. In 1478 or 1479 Berar, which had hitherto been an important Province with a separate army and governed by nobles of high rank and position, was divided into two governments, each of which was known by the name of its fortress capital, the northern being called Gawil and the southern Mahur. At the same time the powers of the provincial governors were much curtailed, all important forts being placed under the command of *kiladars*, who were immediately subordinate to the Sultan.

Imad Shahi dynasty.

35. These salutary reforms came too late to save the Bahmani dynasty from ruin; and in the reign of the fourteenth Sultan, Mahmud Shah II, the principal *tarafdars*, or provincial governors, proclaimed their independence. Imad-ul-mulk, who had formerly been governor of the whole of Berar and now held Gawil, proclaimed his independence in 1490 and soon annexed Mahur to his kingdom. He was by race a Kanarese Hindu, who had been made captive as a boy in one of the expeditions against Vijayanagar and brought up as a Musalman by the governor of Berar, to whose place he ultimately succeeded. Imad-ul-mulk died in 1504 and was succeeded by his son Ala-ud-din Imad Shah, who made Gawilgarh his capital and waged fruitless war against Amir Barid or Bidar and Burhan Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar. Ala-ud-din was succeeded on his death in 1529 by his son Darya Imad Shah, and he, after a peaceful and uneventful reign, by his son Burhan Imad Shah (1560-1). This prince, shortly after his accession, was imprisoned in Narnala by his minister, Tufal Khan, who declared himself independent. In 1572 Murtaza Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar invaded Berar with the avowed intention of releasing Burhan from confinement. Tufal Khan, his son Shams-ul-mulk who had surrendered Gawilgarh, and Burhan were captured shortly afterwards, and were imprisoned and put to death. Thus ended the rule of the Imad Shahi dynasty in Berar, after a duration of eighty-five years.

Nizam Shahi dynasty.

36. The Ahmadnagar dynasty was not long destined to hold possession of the prize. At home it could do nothing to quell civil broils and allay dangerous feuds. Even when the famous Chand Bibi became queen-regent there was no chance of upholding a tottering state. In 1595 prince Murad, the fourth son of the emperor Akbar, besieged Ahmadnagar, but raised the siege, early in 1596, on receiving the formal cession of Berar. In those times the Deccan swarmed with adventurers from every nation in Asia and even from the African coast of the Indian Ocean. These men and their descendants settled in the towns, and their chiefs occupied most of the high military and civil offices; but the Musalman rulers of the Deccan did nothing to disturb the routine of ordinary revenue collections and the administration of the internal affairs of villages and *parganas*, so that the old Hindu organization, with its hereditary *pargana* and village officials, the relic, perhaps, of a civilization older still, was allowed to remain, recognized by the conquerors as a more convenient administrative machine than any which they could devise. There are now in Berar several Muhammadan families of *deshmukhs* (former *pargana* officials); but they are all believed, and for the most part admit themselves, to be descendants of Hindus who in the reign of Aurangzeb accepted Islam in preference to relinquishing their hereditary offices. They may be distinguished from

[1] Most historians have erred in respect of the title under which Bahman ascended the throne. His correct title is given as above in a contemporary inscription.

other Musalmans by their antipathy to beef, and frequently by a partiality for Hindu names, while in one case there are in neighbouring *parganas* two families of *deshmukhs*, one Musalman and the other Hindu, acknowledged cousins, both of them claiming to be Rajputs by caste. Of the principal Maratha families enumerated by Grant Duff as holding good positions under the Bahmani monarchy, that of Jadon Rao is the only one belonging to Berar. In lineage and historical repute it yields to none, even if its claim to descent from the Yadava Rajas of Deogiri be discredited; and the line is not yet extinct.

Mughal period.

37. Prince Murad, after the annexation of Berar to the Mughal empire, founded a town about 6 miles from Balapur, which he named Shahpur, making it his residence; and the newly won province was divided among the Mughal nobles. After Murad's death in 1598 Akbar formed the design of conquering the whole of the Deccan. Ahmadnagar was besieged and captured; and Daniyal, the emperor's fifth son, was appointed governor of Ahmadnagar, Khandesh, and Berar. He died in 1605, in the same year as his father, Akbar. For the greater part of the reign of Jahangir, Akbar's son and successor, Berar was in the possession of Malik Ambar, the Abyssinian (died 1626), who represented the independence of the moribund dynasty of Ahmadnagar, and to whose military genius and administrative capacity a generous tribute is paid in the *Tuzak-i-Jahangiri*, the official record of Jahangir's reign. In the first year of Shah Jahan, Berar passed once more under the Mughal sway. In 1636 the whole of that part of the Deccan which was in the possession of the Mughals was divided into four *Subahs*, or provinces, one of which was Berar, with Ellichpur as its capital and Gawilgarh as its principal fortress. Aurangzeb, Shah Jahan's third son, was appointed viceroy of these four *Subahs*. After Aurangzeb deposed his father, the resources of Berar were taxed to the utmost by his campaigns in Bijapur, Golconda, and Southern India, and at the same time the province was the prey of Maratha marauders. In 1680 it was overrun by Sambhaji, the son of Sivaji; and in 1698 Rajaram, the half-brother and successor of Sambhaji, aided by Bakht Buland, the Gond Raja of Deogarh, who had embraced Islam in order to obtain Aurangzeb's support, again devastated the province. In 1718 Abdullah and Husain Ali Khan, the Saiyid ministers of the emperor Farrukh Siyar, formally recognized the claim of the Marathas, who periodically overran Berar, to *chauth*, or blackmail, to the extent of one-quarter of the revenue, and also permitted them to levy from the riots the contribution known as *sardeshmukhi*, which seems to have been a royalty on appointments to or recognitions of the old Hindu office of *deshmukh*, and amounted to 10 per cent of the revenue collections.

The Nizam and the Marathas.

38. A year later Muhammad Shah ascended the throne of Delhi, but the Government was still in the hands of the two Saiyids. Chin Kilich Khan, afterwards known as Asaf Jah, who had distinguished himself in the later wars of Aurangzeb, had been appointed viceroy of the Deccan under the title of Nizam-ul-mulk, but was opposed by the Court party at Delhi, who sent secret instructions to Mubariz Khan, governor of Khandesh, urging him to withstand Asaf Jah by force of arms. In 1724 a battle was fought at Shakarkhelda in Buldana District, in which Mubariz Khan was utterly defeated. This battle established the virtual independence of Asaf Jah, the founder of the line of the Nizams of Hyderabad, who, to celebrate his victory, renamed the scene of it FATHKHELDA, or 'the village of victory'; and from that day Berar has always been nominally subject to the Nizam. The Bhonsla Rajas of Nagpur posted their officers all over the province; they occupied it with their troops; they collected more than half the revenue, and they fought among themselves for the right to collect; but the Nizam constantly maintained his title as *de jure* ruler of the country, with the exception of Mehkar and some *parganas* to the south, which were ceded to the Peshwa in 1760 after the battle of Udgir, and Umarkhed and other parganas ceded in 1795 after the battle of Kharda. This struggle between Mughal and Maratha for supremacy in Berar commenced in 1737 between Asaf Jah and Raghuji Bhonsla. It ended in 1803, when, after the defeat of the Maratha confederacy at Assaye and Argaon, and the capture of Gawilgarh by General Arthur Wellesley, the Bhonsla Raja signed the Treaty of Deogaon, by which he resigned all claim to territory and revenue west of the Wardha, Gawilgarh and Narnala, with a small tract of land afterwards exchanged, remaining in his possession.

39. The injury caused to Berar by the wars of the eighteenth century must have been wide and deep. Described in the *Ain-i-Akbari* as highly cultivated and in parts populous, supposed by M. de Thevenot in 1667 to be one of the wealthiest portions of the Mughal empire, it fell on evil days before the close of the seventeenth century. Cultivation fell off just when the finances were strained by the long wars; the local revenue officers rebelled; the army became mutinous; and the Marathas easily plundered a weak province when they had severed its sinews by cutting off its trade. Wherever the Mughals appointed a collector the Marathas appointed another, and both claimed the revenue, while foragers from each side exacted forced contributions, so that the harassed cultivator often threw up his land and helped to plunder his neighbour. The Marathas by these means succeeded in fixing their hold on the province; but its resources were ruined and its people were seriously demoralized by a régime of barefaced plunder and fleecing without the semblance of principle or stability.

Berar reattached to Hyderabad.

40. By the partition treaty of Hyderabad (1804) the Berar territories ceded by the Bhonsla Raja were made over to the Nizam. Some tracts about Sindkhed and Jalna were also restored by Sindhia to the Hyderabad State. The Treaty of Deogaon had put a stop to actual warfare in Berar, but the people continued to suffer intermittently from the inroads of Pindaris, and incessantly from misgovernment; for the province had been restored to the Nizam just at the time when confusion in his territories was at its worst. 'The Nizam's territories' wrote General Wellesley in January, 1804, 'are one complete chaos from the Godavari to Hyderabad'; and again, 'Sindkhed is a nest of thieves; the situation of this country is shocking; the people are starving in hundreds, and there is no government to afford the slightest relief.' After the conclusion of the war of 1817-8, which did not seriously affect the tranquillity of Berar, a treaty was made in 1822 which fixed the Wardha river as the eastern frontier of the province, the Melghat and the subjacent districts in the plains being restored to Hyderabad in exchange for the districts east of the Wardha and those held by the Peshwa. The treaty also extinguished the Maratha claim to *chauth*.

41. Between 1803 and 1820 the revenue of Berar had declined by one-half owing to the raids of Pindaris and Bhils, while the administration was most wasteful, no less than 26,000 troops being quartered on the province. General Wellesley had advised in 1804 that the local governor should be compelled to reform his military establishment, foretelling the aggravation of civil disorder by the sudden cessation of arms. The disbanded troops were too strong for the weak police, while the spread of British dominion established order all around, and drove all the brigands of India within the limits of Native States. So Berar was harried from time to time by bands of men under leaders who on various pretexts, but always with the real object of plunder, set up the standard of rebellion. Sometimes the British irregular forces had to take the field against them, as, for instance, in 1849, when a man styling himself Appa Sahib Bhonsla, *ex*-Raja of Nagpur, was with difficulty captured. Throughout these troubles the Hindu *deshmukhs* and other *pargana* officials were openly disloyal to the Nizam's government, doing their best to thwart his commanders and abetting the pretenders. The last fight against open rebels took place at Chichamba, near Risod, in 1859.

42. After the old war-time came the 'cankers of a calm world,' for then began the palmy days of the great farmers-general at Hyderabad. Messrs. Palmer & Co. overshadowed the government, and very nearly proved too strong for Sir Charles Metcalfe when he laid the axe to the root of their power. The firm had made large loans at 24 per cent for the numerous cavalry maintained in Berar. Then Puran Mal, a great money-lender of Hyderabad, got most of Berar in farm; but in 1839 he was turned out, under pressure from the Resident in favour of Messrs. Pestonji & Co. These were enterprising Parsi merchants, who in 1825-6 made the first considerable exportation of cotton from Berar to Bombay. They gave liberal advances to cotton-growers, set up presses at Khamgaon and other places, and took up, generally, the export of produce from the Nizam's country. In 1841 Chandu Lal, the Hyderabad minister, gave them large assignments of revenue in Berar in repayment of loans to the State; but in 1843 the minister

resigned, having conducted the State to the verge of bankruptcy, and Pestonji was subsequently forced to give up his Berar districts.

Berar made over to British administration.

43. All these proceedings damaged the State's credit, as Chandu Lal's financing had hampered its revenue; and in 1843 and several succeeding years the pay of the Irregular Force maintained under the treaty of 1800 had to be advanced by the British Government. In 1850 it had again fallen into heavy arrears, and in 1853 the debt due to the British Government on account of this pay and other unsatisfied claims amounted to 45 lakhs. The bankruptcy of the State disorganized the administration, and the non-payment of the troops continued to be a serious political evil. Accordingly, in 1853, a new treaty was concluded with the Nizam, under which the Hyderabad Contingent was to be maintained by the British Government, while for the payment of this force, and in satisfaction of the other claims, districts yielding a gross revenue of 50 lakhs were assigned to the Company. The Berar districts 'assigned' by this treaty are now popularly understood to form the province of Berar, which was administered on behalf of the Government of India by the Resident at Hyderabad, though they coincide in extent neither with the Berar of the Nizams nor with the imperial *Subah*. The territory made over under this treaty comprised, besides Berar, the district of Dharaseo and the Raichur *doab*. It was agreed that accounts should be annually rendered to the Nizam, and that any surplus revenue should be paid to him. His Highness was released from the obligation of furnishing a large force in time of war, and the Contingent ceased to be a part of his army, and became an auxiliary force kept up by the British Government for his use. The provisions of this treaty, which required the submission of annual accounts to the Nizam, were, however, productive of much inconvenience and embarrassing discussions. Difficulties had also arisen regarding the levy of customs duties under the commercial treaty of 1802. To remove these difficulties, and at the same time to reward the Nizam for his services in 1857, a new treaty was concluded in 1860, by which a debt of 50 lakhs due from him was cancelled; and he also received the territory of Surapur, which had been confiscated for the rebellion of the Raja, and the districts of Dharaseo and Raichur were restored to him. On the other hand, he ceded certain districts on the left bank of the Godavari, traffic on which river was to be free from all duties, and agreed that Berar should be held in trust for the purposes specified in the treaty of 1853.

44. The history of Berar from 1853 to 1902 is marked by no important political events other than the changes made by the treaty of 1860. Its smooth course was scarcely ruffled even by the Mutiny of 1857. Whatever secret elements of disturbance may have been at work, the country remained calm, measuring its behaviour not by Delhi, but by Hyderabad. In 1858 Tantia Topi got into the Satpura Hills, and tried to break away to the south that he might stir up the Deccan; but he was headed at all outlets and never reached the Berar valley.

Progress since the Mutiny.

45. The management of Berar by the Nizam's officials had been worse than the contemporary administration of the adjoining Nagpur territory, which during a long minority was under British regency, and was subsequently well governed until it lapsed. There had consequently been wholesale emigration from Eastern Berar to the Districts beyond the Wardha. When Berar came under British management the emigrants, with the usual attachment of Indian cultivators to their patrimony, the value of which had in this case been enhanced by much of it having remained fallow for some time, returned in thousands to Berar. This was only one mode out of several, which it would be tedious to detail, whereby cultivation was restored and augmented. Then supervened the American Civil War. The cultivation of cotton received an extraordinary stimulus, the peasants importing their supply of food-grains so that all available land might be devoted to the cultivation of the more profitable crop. Cotton requires much manual toil in weeding, picking, ginning, packing and the like; and the increase in the area under it created a great demand for rural labour, which operated to raise the standard of wages. A great export of cotton to Bombay was soon established; and as the importation of foreign produce was far from proportionate, much of the return consisted of cash and bullion, so

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that prices rose and the labouring and producing classes were rapidly enriched. At the same time a line of railway was being laid across the province, causing the employment of all labour, skilled and unskilled, that could be got on the spot, and also introducing a large foreign element. The people became prosperous and contented, and progress in all departments was vast and rapid.

46. The *Census Report* of 1881 showed material advance. The cultivated area had increased by 50 per cent and the land revenue by 42 per cent since 1867. But although Berar escaped the widespread famine of 1876—8, the poorer classes undoubtedly suffered much hardship at that time, and cattle died by thousands for want of fodder. The next ten years were, on the whole, prosperous, though cholera, which generally appeared in an intense form every other year, caused great mortality. There was, however, an increase in trade, cultivation, and manufactures, and the population rose by 8 per cent. The ten years preceding 1901 were not, owing to natural causes, marked by a general increase in prosperity, but the province displayed considerable stability and power of resistance. There was but one year in the decade, 1898, which could be described as very favourable, and even then the *rabi* crops partially failed. The other nine years were marked by unseasonable or deficient rainfall, poor harvests, sickness, and high mortality, culminating in 1899 and 1900, when famine was sore in the land. The population decreased by nearly 5 per cent during the decade. But, notwithstanding all this, other statistics showed steady progress and development. Cultivation extended; the value of the import and export trade increased; and the number of steam factories rose by 84 per cent.

Lease of Berar to the Government of India.

47. It had gradually become apparent since 1860 that the maintenance of the Hyderabad Contingent on its old footing as a separate force was inexpedient and unnecessary, and also that the administration of so small a province as Berar as a separate unit was very costly. In 1902, therefore, a fresh agreement was entered into with the Nizam. This agreement reaffirmed His Highness's rights over Berar, which, instead of being indefinitely 'assigned' to the Government of India, was leased in perpetuity at an annual rental of 25 lakhs; and authorized the Government of India to administer the province in such manner as it might deem desirable, as well as to redistribute, reduce, reorganize, and control the Hyderabad Contingent, due provision being made, as stipulated in the treaty of 1853, for the protection of His Highness's dominions. In pursuance of this agreement the Contingent ceased in March, 1903, to be a separate force, and was reorganized and redistributed as an integral part of the Indian Army.

48. In October, 1903, Berar was transferred to the administration of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. For the present the rental paid to the Nizam is charged with an annual debit of 10 lakhs towards the repayment of loans made by the Government of India for famine expenditure in Berar and for famine and other expenditure in Hyderabad State. When these loans have been repaid, the Nizam will receive the full rent of 25 lakhs. The advantages secured to him by the new agreement are that his rights over Berar have been reaffirmed, and he will receive 25 lakhs per annum, compared with a sum of between 8 and 9 lakhs, which was the average surplus paid to him under the former treaties.

FORM OF ADMINISTRATION

3—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION

Revenue Administration

49. The territories comprising the Central Provinces are administered by a Chief Commissioner on behalf of the Governor-General in Council. On the amalgamation of Berar with the Central Provinces in 1903, all powers and authority which had hitherto been invested in the Resident at Hyderabad for the government of that territory were transferred to the Chief Commissioner. As Berar is not included within the territorial limits of British India, sanction for its administration under British Indian Laws is derived from the Indian (Foreign Jurisdiction) Order in Council, 1902. The Chief Commissioner as Head of the Local Administration is assisted by four Secretaries, three Under Secretaries, and two Assistant Secretaries. One Secretary is also a Chief Engineer in the Public Works Department, of which he is the Provincial

Head. The Heads of other Provincial Departments address the Chief Commissioner through the remaining Secretaries. Under the Central Provinces Financial Commissioner's Act, 1908, a Financial Commissioner has been appointed. Subject to the general control of the Chief Commissioner, he is the Chief Revenue Court of the Provinces, and exercises final powers of appeal and revision. He relieves the Chief Commissioner of certain functions under the Central Provinces Land Revenue, Tenancy, Court of Wards, Land Improvement Loans and Agriculturists' Loans Acts, the Berar Patels' and Patwaris' Law, and the Indian Stamp Act. He also passes orders on behalf of the Chief Commissioner in certain special cases or branches of the Administration.

The District Officer.

50. For purposes of revenue administration the Central Provinces are divided into four Divisions, each in charge of a Commissioner, and 18 districts, each in charge of a Deputy Commissioner. These districts are sub-divided into 56 tahsils, each in charge of a Tahsildar. Berar constitutes a separate Division, containing 4 districts and 22 tahsils. For all purposes of general administration the Deputy Commissioner is the unit. As District Magistrate he is ultimately responsible for all matters connected with the prevention, detection and punishment of crime within the limits of his charge. The Police force is under his control and direction, and he has full power to employ it as he thinks best for the maintenance of order and the vindication of the law. He also exercises a close control over the work of the subordinate magistracy. As Deputy Commissioner he is directly responsible for the administration of the Land Revenue and cognate Acts, for the assessment and collection of the income-tax, and for the administration of the Excise and Stamp Acts. He exercises a general control over the working of all departments of Government (excluding the Judicial Department) in all matters which affect the interests of his charge. He has, however, no responsibility in matters which are of a purely departmental or technical nature. In matters connected with local self-government his interference is ordinarily limited to such guidance and stimulation as he may think necessary; but in the last resort complete powers both of veto and of initiative have been reserved to him.

District Staff.

51. For the performance of these multifarious duties the Deputy Commissioner's staff consists of:—

(*a*) a District Superintendent of Police, a Civil Surgeon, who is also Superintendent of the Jail, and a Divisional Forest Officer, each of whom deals with all matters affecting his own department, and has his own department staff for the purpose; and

(*b*) a varying number of Assistant and Extra-Assistant Commissioners, Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars, whose duties comprise revenue, criminal and general administrative work.

All Civil Works in the District, other than those undertaken by Local Bodies, are in charge of an Executive Engineer, whose relations to the Deputy Commissioner in respect of all matters in the latter's charge are the same as those of other departmental officers. With the exception of Government High Schools and a few special schools, all schools under public management are under the control of Local Bodies. For the inspection and supervision of these one or more Deputy Inspectors of Schools are attached to the district.

Sub-divisional System.

52. A word is necessary as to the sub-divisional system, which has now been introduced in all districts. In order to leave the Deputy Commissioner free as far as possible to attend to important matters of general interest in his charge, Assistant or Extra-Assistant Commissioners are placed in charge of one or more tahsils and given the legal powers of a Sub-divisional Magistrate in criminal matters and, with certain exceptions, the powers of a Deputy Commissioner under the various revenue laws. The system not only relieves the Deputy Commissioner of much unnecessary work, but also provides a useful training ground for those officers who will subsequently have to hold independent charges.

Judicial Administration.

53. The supreme judicial authority in the Central Provinces is the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, appointed under the Central Provinces Courts Act, 1904, and consisting of the Judicial Commissioner and two Additional Judicial Commissioners. Subordinate to this Court are four Divisional and Sessions Judges,

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whose areas of jurisdiction correspond to the four revenue Divisions of the Province, and 14 District Judges. There are also four Small Cause Court Judges, at Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Kamptee, and Saugor. Under the Berar Courts Law 1905, Berar is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, Central Provinces. It is divided into two districts, East Berar and West Berar, with head-quarters at Amraoti and Akola respectively. A District Judge, who is also Sessions Judge within the limits of his jurisdiction, an Additional District and Sessions Judge, and a Small Cause Court Judge are posted at each head-quarters. With the exception of certain cases under the Central Provinces Tenancy Act, which are reserved for decision by Revenue Courts, the administration of civil justice is entirely in the hands of the above Courts. All original criminal work, with the exception of cases committed to the Court of Sessions, is in the hands of the executive staff of Tahsildars (who are usually 2nd Class Magistrates), Sub-divisional Magistrates, and District Magistrates. All District Magistrates, together with selected Sub-divisional Magistrates, are invested with power to try all offences not punishable with death. The District Magistrate and certain Sub-divisional Magistrates have power to dispose of appeals against the decisions of 2nd and 3rd Class Magistrates, but all other appellate and revisional work is disposed of by the Courts of the Sessions Judges and the Judicial Commissioner. Much assistance in the disposal of criminal work is rendered to the Administration by Benches of Honorary Magistrates, appointed chiefly from the land-holding class, and to a smaller extent from the mercantile and banking classes. There are now 299 of these gentlemen in the Provinces.

Staff. The Commission.

54. The Provincial staff for the purposes of Revenue and Judicial administration consists of—

(*a*) The Central Provinces and Berar Commissions.

(*b*) The Provincial Civil Service.

(*c*) The Subordinate Civil Service.

No fresh recruitment is now made for the Berar Commission, appointments in which are absorbed automatically into the Central Provinces Commission as they fall vacant A scheme for the amalgamation of the two Commissions is under consideration. The strength of the two Commissions is as follows :—

	Central Provinces.	Berar.
Indian Civil Service[1] ...	92	...
Indian Army ...	...	5
Uncovenanted Civil Service ...	2	7
Statutory Civilian ...	1	...
Total ...	95	12

The Commission is now recruited entirely from members of the Indian Civil Service. The following cadre posts in the Provinces are reserved for its officers :—

		Central Provinces.	Berar.
Administration ...	Chief Commissioner ...	1	...
	Financial Commissioner ...	1	...
	Secretaries ...	2	1
	Under Secretaries ...	2	...
Revenue ...	Commissioners ...	4	1
	Deputy Commissioners ...	18	4
	Sub-Divisional Officers ...	13	6

[1] Exclusive of two officers transferred permanently to Bengal with the Sambalpur District.

		Central Provinces.	Berar.
Judicial	Judicial Commissioner's Court—Judges'	2	1
	Do. do. Registrar	1	...
	Sessions Judges ...	4	2
	District Judges ...	3	1
General	Commissioner of Settlements, and Assistant.	2	...
	Commissioner of Excise ...	1	...
	Political Agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatories.	1	...
		55	16
	Deduct "listed" posts (*vide* next paragraph) ...	3	
	Total ...	52	

Appointments of Assistant Commissioners of the 3rd Class are not included in the above list. Members of the Commission are also seconded to the posts of Inspector-General of Police, Director of Agriculture and Industries, Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies, and Settlement Officers. The Chief Commissioner has power to make appointments to all the foregoing posts without reference to the Government of India, with the exception of those of the Judicial, Additional Judicial, and Financial Commissioners.

Provincial Civil Service.

55. The Provincial Civil Service is recruited in India from "statutory" natives of India, and has two distinct branches—executive and judicial. The executive branch consists of 99 posts (exclusive of temporary posts), divided into 8 grades on pay ranging from Rs. 200 to Rs. 800. The judicial branch consists of 15 posts of District Judges, in four grades rising from Rs. 500 to Rs. 800, and 34 posts of Subordinate Judges, in two grades on Rs. 300 and Rs. 400 respectively. Members of the Service are eligible for any three out of the total number of Deputy Commissionerships and Sessions Judgeships (superior posts) shown in the preceding paragraph as open to members of the Commission.

Subordinate Civil Service.

56. The Subordinate Civil Service is recruited ordinarily from natives of the Central Provinces and Berar. It consists of the following posts :—

Posts.	No.	No. of grades.	Pay.
			Rs.
(*a*) Executive—			
Tahsildars	83	4	150—250
Naib-Tahsildars	79	3	60—100
(*b*) Judicial—			
Munsiffs	74	4	150—250

The above figures exclude temporary and officiating posts, the number of which varies from time to time.

Special Departments.

57. The work of the following branches of the Administration is vested in special departments, each with a separate departmental Head :—

Department.	Departmental Head.	Departmental or other Executive Officer.
Public Works ..	Chief Engineer ...	Executive Engineer.
Settlements and Land Records .	Commissioner of Settlements and Land Records.	Settlement Officer.
Forests ...	Chief Conservator ...	Deputy Conservator.
Excise, Assessed Taxes, Registration and Stamps.	Commissioner of Excise and Miscellaneous Revenue.	Deputy Commissioner.
Police ...	Inspector-General of Police ...	District Superintendent of Police.
Education ...	Director of Public Instruction ...	Inspector of Schools.
Jails ...	Inspector-General of Jails ...	Superintendent, District Jail.
Medical ...	Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals ...	Civil Surgeon.
Ecclesiastical ...	Lord Bishop ...	Chaplain.
Agriculture and Industries ...	Director of Agriculture and Industries...	Deputy Commissioner.
Sanitary ...	Sanitary Commissioner ...	Do. do.
Co-operative Credit ...	Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies.	Do. do.

[1] One post of Additional Judicial Commissioner is at present held by a member of the Bar.

FORM OF ADMINISTRATION

The Heads of the Settlement, Excise, Agriculture and Co-operative Credit Departments, which are purely Provincial, are selected from among members of the Commission. The Inspector-General of Police is usually a member of the Commission, but officers of the Indian Police are also eligible for the appointment. The Heads of the Public Works, Forests, and Education Departments are appointed from among members of the Imperial Services respectively concerned, the two former by the Government of India, and the last-named by the Chief Commissioner. The Medical, Jails, and Sanitary Departments are in charge of officers of the Indian Medical Service. The Veterinary Department, the Superintendent of which is an officer of the Army Veterinary Corps, is a branch of the Department of Agriculture. The Postal, Telegraph, and Finance Departments are Imperial Departments not subject to the control of the Chief Commissioner.

CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES

4—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES

Land tenures in the Central Provinces under Native rule.

58. The commencement of British rule in the Central Provinces found most villages of the open country in the hands of lessees (*patels* or *thekadars*) who held farms of the village land revenue from Government—generally for short periods. A single lessee often held the farms of several villages; but, speaking generally, under this system each village was let on a separate lease, and was held by a separate lessee of its own. Villages so managed were collectively known as the *khalsa*. But a very large area (over two-fifths of the whole, including a large proportion of the wilder portions of the Provinces) was held by persons whose rights were of a more substantial character, and who by grant or long prescription were possessed of groups of villages or tracts over which they claimed rights amounting in many respects to the proprietary status of English law. The tenure seems to have originally been in all cases a service tenure, and closely approximated in its incidents to certain features of the feudal system. And where the actual rendering of service had become obsolete, a trace of the original obligations of the tenure survived in the fact that its holder rendered to the Government less than a full land revenue assessment—in other words, that his money payment only represented a part of his responsibilities. Estates of this class are known as 'talukdaris' or 'jagirdaris' in the north of the Provinces, and as 'zamindaris' in the south. The families possessing them mostly represent clans or races which held ruling power in the past, and a very large number are of aboriginal descent. They are most numerous and important in the south-east corner of the Provinces. Of the tract included in the Chhattisgarh Division no less than four-fifths were held on zamindari tenure, and the area so held in the Chanda district was nearly one-half of the total. A third class of villages were originally *khalsa*, but had come into the hands of persons or religious foundations to whom their revenue had been specially granted by the State. It is not easy to determine in all cases how far these grants included the ownership of the land in addition to the right to appropriate its revenue. But it is clear that these grantees (known generally as *muafidars*) held a far stronger position as a rule than the ordinary *khalsa* lessee, and indeed many of the grants expressly convey full out-and-out proprietorship of the soil.

Grant of proprietary rights.

59. The policy adopted at the settlement of 1863 relieved the Government of responsibility for enquiring into the precise extent of these various rights. It was decided to recognise as full proprietors all persons in possession of villages, whether as lessees, zamindars, or muafidars. In the case of lessees such recognition amounted to a free grant of proprietorship; the concession was less in the case of zamindars or muafidars, but still amounted to a considerable augmentation of their powers.

Formation of the Feudatory States.

60. Fifteen of the zamindari (or talukdari) estates were considered to be of sufficient importance to warrant their being constituted Feudatory States, that is to say, being altogether excluded from British India. The Chiefs hold on conditions of loyalty and good government, but are nominally free from direct interference save in the case of death sentences, which require the Chief Commissioner's confirmation. In certain States, sentences of imprisonment for more than seven years require confirmation by the Commissioner. But as a matter of fact the Government has exercised a very large amount of control, owing mainly to

the frequency with which the States have been taken under direct management, either from the minority or the misconduct of the Chief. In 1905 five of these States were transferred to Bengal, in exchange for five States from the Chota Nagpur Agency, whose Chiefs exercise considerably less independent powers than those of the remaining States. During a minority the affairs of a State are generally managed by a Superintendent under the control of the Political Agent. The Superintendent is appointed by Government, and is usually an officer specially selected from the Provincial or Subordinate Service according to the size of the State. These appointments, involving as they do a large measure of responsibility and scope for independent action, form a legitimate object of ambition for members of the above services, and are for the same reason useful to the Administration as a means of rewarding capable and meritorious officers. In some cases also the assent of Government to the accession of a new Chief is made contingent on his employing an officer nominated by Government as his Superintendent, or of submitting his annual budget for the sanction of the Political Agent. One of the States, Makrai, lies in the Hoshangabad district, and the remainder are situated in the Chhattisgarh Division. They cover an aggregate area of 31,174 square miles and pay to Government a tribute of Rs. 2,40,187. Their tributes are in most cases liable to periodical revision.

Zamindari estates.

61. The zamindars or talukdars who were simply declared proprietors of their estates received very different treatment in different cases. Talukdari estates in the northern districts, which formed the old "Saugor-Nerbudda" territories and came under British rule 36 years earlier than the rest of the Provinces, had by the time of the 1863 settlement lost most of their distinctive features, and were simply settled with the talukdar, village by village, on the system followed in the *khalsa*, preserving, however, any claims to hold at less than a full revenue payment. On the other hand, the *jagirs* of Hoshangabad and Chhindwara and the zamindaris of the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh country were settled by estates, not by villages, and in Chhindwara and Chanda a patent was conferred on each holder defining the incidents and privileges of his tenure and establishing an entail, the estate being inalienable and not liable to partition. Similar restrictions were placed on the tenure of the Bilaspur zamindars, and were subsequently extended to the zamindars of Raipur. The numerous and important zamindari estates in the Bhandara and Balaghat districts are on the other hand held free of special conditions, and are liable to the ordinary rules of Hindu Law so far as transfer and succession are concerned. It may be added that the legal effect of the restrictions imposed by Government on the zamindari tenure is not quite free from doubt, but that they are absolutely necessary if it is desired to maintain the present families in possession. The zamindars as a class are ignorant and improvident, and under the ordinary law would speedily allow indebtedness to bring their estates to the hammer.

Sovereign powers formerly delegated to Zamindars.

62. It has been already mentioned that the talukdari or zamindari status was subject to the obligation of military or police service. At the same time it generally carried some special privileges (which may be regarded as functions of the ruling power held by delegation), the most prominent of which were the right to administer excise and levy a tax on traders (pandhri). In the northern districts, the talukdars were relieved from police duties and deprived of their excise privileges (on payment of compensation) while the country was under the jurisdiction of the North-Western Provinces Government. The zamindars of Bhandara and Balaghat were similarly treated at or shortly after the settlement of 1863. Most of the Chhattisgarh zamindars retained their police responsibilities till the last re-settlement, but were then relieved of them; and the same action was subsequently taken in respect of the zamindaris of Chanda and the *jagirs* of Chhindwara and Hoshangabad, so that there no longer remains any portion of British territory in which the police force is not directly controlled by Government. In the matter of excise it was decided in 1892 that the monopoly of this branch of the revenue could not be regarded as an incident of the zamindari tenure. The excise administration was therefore resumed by Government in 1893, subject to the payment of compensation for the curtailment of profit and authority, and in some cases the zamindars were granted a special farm of the excise revenue for a term of years with a view to mitigating the loss of dignity which they might consider to be entailed on them by the abrogation of their

powers. The administration of pounds, which had hitherto been on the hands of the Chhattisgarh zamindars, was resumed in 1903, on payment of compensation to the zamindars. The pandhri tax is no longer in existence. The legality of the action of Government in resuming the administration of police, excise and pounds has recently been upheld by a decision of the Privy Council.

Landlords of the khalsa villages.

63. The effect of the general grant of proprietary rights was of course much wider in the case of *khalsa* than of zamindari villages: it did not merely extend or confirm rights which were at the time in existence, but created completely new ones, converting a lease-hold into practically a free-hold tenure, the holders of which are now known as *malguzars*. The character and circumstances of the persons who profited by this concession differed very greatly in different districts. Originally no doubt the men who held the revenue farm of a village would as a rule be one of the village cultivators—*primus inter pares*—and would be in a position to represent the village effectively in its dealings with the Government. But under a stringent system of revenue farming such men would gradually give place to outside speculators, and it is a deplorable fact that under the first thirty years of British administration in the Saugor-Nerbudda territories, a very large number of villages came in this way into the hands of money-lenders. Similar transfers were also very numerous in the Nagpur country during the last days of native rule; and hence it came about that the grant of proprietary rights which was intended to benefit the land-holding classes was in great measure a concession to the money-lending interest.

Partition.

64. It is probable that the revenue farm of each village was originally granted to a single person, but it is clear that sharing was recognized,—in other words, that a farm could be held by a family as well as by an individual. Sharers in the village farm were admitted to a share in its proprietorship. But in a very large proportion of cases the grant of proprietary rights to malguzars resulted in the creation of a single proprietor for each village. It should be added that in some places—especially on the Bundelkhand border to the north, and in the Wardha district of the Nagpur country—the claims to proprietary rights were found to be shared amongst a numerous body of persons connected with one another by family ties under a system of village management which showed some similarity to that of the *bhayachara* communities of Northern India. During the fifty years which have passed since the malguzars were made proprietors, division of land or profits has been practically unchecked.

Inferior proprietorship and protected status.

65. A peculiar variety of the malguzari tenure is that in which the rights of the malguzar are shared in by a "superior proprietor". This tenure was introduced principally in order to protect from aggression men holding villages in talukdaris or zamindaris, whose claims to remain in possession might be injuriously affected by the recognition of the absolute ownership of the zamindar. The most numerous class of persons made "inferior proprietor" were relations of the zamindar holding villages for maintenance, but in some cases the status was granted to deserving lessees who had earned a title to their villages by founding or improving them. The number of lessees of this stamp to whom this protection was given was in some districts very small, and wholesale ejectments at the suit of the zamindar ensued, which have now been checked by the provision enabling a Settlement Officer to grant a village lessee in a zamindari a "protected status," under which he is secure from disturbance so long as he pays a fair rent. Speaking generally, villages held by inferior proprietors are managed entirely by them, the superior proprietor receiving an annual sum over and above the revenue (called *malikana*) in satisfaction of his claims. The Settlement Officer is empowered to grant protected status to any *thekadar*, *gaontia* or farmer on his own initiative, and, notwithstanding any contract to the contrary, with the previous sanction of the Chief Commissioner. As an alternative he can declare the *thekadar* to be an occupancy tenant of land in the village which is in his possession, whether *sir* or otherwise. The incidents of the "protected status" tenure have also been defined. It cannot be transferred or partitioned, and devolves by inheritance on one member only of the *thekadar's* family. During the currency of settlement the Deputy Commissioner has the powers of a Settlement Officer for the grant of protected status.

66. The third class of proprietary villages—those originally held by revenue-free grantees (*muafidars*)—call for but little notice, as the wholesale grant of proprietary rights left their holders in no higher position than that of ordinary malguzars, apart from the revenue concession enjoyed by them. Villages of this class are most numerous in the Nagpur country, where, during the last days of native rule, court favourites and others were able to secure grants of village revenues on extraordinarily slender grounds. When the village is held on a quit-rent fixed in perpetuity the grant is known as a "*makta*" or "*ubari*," and as a "*mokasa*" when the whole of the revenue is held by the assignee. Generally speaking, the grants of revenue were made subject to good behaviour, and are personal and inalienable. But the grant of proprietary rights made the proprietorship of the assignee in the village lands—apart from their revenue—transferable at his will, and the assignee can realize money by selling his lands, though Government is at liberty to call upon the purchaser for a full revenue in cases where the original assignment of revenue was of a personal character. A large proportion of these *muafi* villages were originally held as religious endowments and managed by a trustee. This trustee was not infrequently made the recipient of proprietary rights, in which case the object of the original grant has of course been defeated. Annual inquiries are made by the Deputy Commissioner into the circumstances of all revenue-free and quit-rent grants with a view to their resumption by Government on the expiry of the period for which they were made or on the breach of any condition attached to their continuance.

Revenue-free grants.

67. The problem of checking the transfer of land from the land-owning to the capitalist and professional classes, and the total severance of the former from all connection with or interest in their hereditary estates, is one that constantly engages the attention of Government. Owners of land in the Central Provinces at present enjoy complete freedom of transfer as regards their proprietary rights. But in order to prevent the total severance of the proprietor from the land, and to preserve to him the means of subsistence, the Tenancy Act of 1898 secures to him a cultivating occupancy right in his '*sir* land' or home-farm. No land-owner can lose or transfer his proprietary interest in his *sir* land without acquiring the right of an occupancy tenant in it, unless the transfer without reservation has been previously sanctioned by Government. Such sanction is always given when the land is self-acquired or has been purchased recently, but in other cases only when for some special reason it is clearly to the interest of the vendor that his tenant-right should not be reserved.

Restrictions on the right of transfer of land.

68. The Forest estate of Government—the lands, that is to say, which the Government holds as proprietor—was formed by the reservation of jungle tracts (consisting either of whole villages or of parts of villages) in the *khalsa* at the time when proprietary rights were granted to the malguzars. It was held unnecessary to include in this grant lands which in the past had played a merely nominal part in the village economy. But this view was carried into effect only in the *khalsa*, and in zamindari estates jungle lands were left untouched. The general rule was to allow each village an area of waste or jungle equal to twice its cultivated area, and to exclude the surplus; but this principle was by no means strictly followed, and owing no doubt to the haste with which this part of the settlement operations was forced to completion, cases are of very numerous occurrence in which villages were left with jungles far too large for their requirements. The area of reserved waste further included any cultivated villages for which no claimant whatever was forthcoming, as was frequently the case in the wilder parts of the Provinces where the population is mainly aboriginal. In excluding these waste lands the Government of the day had for its principal object their colonization through the hands and capital of people from outside, and for many years settlers were tempted by very favourable terms either to purchase lands outright free of revenue, or to take them on clearance leases with the prospect of earning malguzari rights by successful reclamation. This policy subsequently gave way to one of exactly contrary tendency; alienation was prohibited, the extension of cultivation viewed with jealousy, and the whole area of Government property, cultivated villages included, brought under the provisions of the Forest Act. Finally a compromise between these two extremes was adopted.

Government lands; Raiyatwari tenures.

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Jungle tracts of real importance from the forestry point of view are being gradually brought under permanent conservation, while culturable and cultivated lands are released from Forest Law and are thrown open to the public on a raiyatwari tenure, each plot of ground or field being held direct from Government at a revenue assessed for a term of years, the payment of which secures the raiyat against ejectment. The tenure is heritable, but not transferable. The districts in which this system has received the greatest extension are Mandla, Nimar, Balaghat, Seoni and Chanda. The total area actually occupied for cultivation in raiyatwari villages is now 937,318 acres, or 1,464 square miles, paying a revenue of Rs. 3,31,298.

Malik-makbuzas.

69. Of subordinate tenures—tenures, that is to say, which are not held directly from Government—the first for mention is that known as the *malik-makbuza* or plot-proprietor. This was originally a raiyati tenure—marking cultivating as opposed to proprietary possession—and was created at the time of granting proprietary rights to malguzars in order to secure against unfair encroachment raiyats who possessed very strong claims to consideration either from length of tenure or by the expenditure of money on improvements. A *malik-makbuza* holds at a separate assessment, which, however, he is bound to pay through the malguzars of the village in which his plot is situated, and possesses complete rights of transfer unfettered by a right of pre-emption on the part of the malguzar. Another class of persons whose status has been recognised as that of *malik-makbuza* are holders of revenue-free plots of land in grant from Government, who now enjoy the right of transferring these plots by sale or mortgage, although the revenue assignment may be liable to resumption on such alienation. And use was made of the tenure to protect village farmers in talukas or zamindaris against unjust ejectment at the hands of the talukdar or zamindar. The present provisions of law enabling Government to grant a protected status in these cases were not in force at the settlement of 1863, and a course commonly followed was to declare the farmer to be a *malik-makbuza* of the village demesne lands (*sir*) in case of his suffering ejectment at any time. Save in the Nimar district, where nearly 23 per cent of the lands are held in this right, the holders of the *malik-makbuza* tenure are not of much numerical importance.

Tenants.

70. Of tenants pure and simple, the most privileged class are those whose tenure is defined as 'absolute-occupancy'; this is heritable, transferable subject to pre-emption on the part of the landlord, and includes fixity of rent for the term of settlement. This status was given to raiyats whose claims, though hardly of sufficient strength to warrant the grant of the proprietary *malik-makbuza* status, justified a more substantial concession than that of the smple 'occupancy' tenure. Till 1884 the status of an occupancy tenant could be gained by 12 years' continuous possession of the land, but by the Tenancy Act of that year the 12 years' rule was abrogated, and the means of acquiring occupancy rights limited to purchase by the payment of a premium equal to $2\frac{1}{2}$ years' rental. In 1901-02 the number of persons who thus acquired occupancy rights was 186; but in 1910-11 only 7 applications were received, of which 3 were granted. The rent of an occupancy tenant is fixed at settlement, and is liable to enhancement by a Revenue Officer, at intervals of not less than ten years, on the ground that a specially low rent was fixed at settlement, that the area under cultivation has been extended, or that there has been a rise in prices, subject to certain restrictions and to the limit of a maximum increment at one time of 25 per cent on the existing rental. His tenure is heritable by direct succession or by collaterals resident in the village, but is not transferable except to an heir or a co-sharer, or by a sub-lease for one year. In Chanda and Nimar all tenants not holding in a superior right are occupancy tenants, and their rent cannot be enhanced during the currency of settlement. There is, however, no special reason why these two districts should be specially favoured in this way, and as the prohibition produces a complete stagnation of rents, which cannot be remedied at settlement, it is proposed to abolish it. Until the passing of the Tenancy Act of 1898 'ordinary' or non-occupancy tenants, though nominally enjoying certain legal safeguards against oppression, in reality held at the pleasure of their landlords, and in some tracts were grossly rack-rented. At the settlement of 1863 non-occupancy tenants were left in the position of tenants-at-will, and subsequent legislation had failed in several districts to counteract the ideas which arose from this policy.

The present Act, re-affirming the provisions of that previously in force, and where these were found to be ineffective, introducing new safeguards, has conferred on ordinary tenants a very substantial measure of protection. Their rents, like those of the superior classes, are now fixed at settlement, and the Settlement Officer has power to reduce exorbitant rents. The rent can be enhanced at intervals of seven years after settlement, but if the tenant does not agree to the enhancement, a Revenue Officer will fix a fair rent which will not exceed that previously payable by more than 33 per cent; and where the rent has been enhanced by agreement and not by the action of a Revenue or Settlement Officer, the tenant is entitled to plead in a suit for arrears that the amount is excessive, in which case an equitable rent will be fixed, and no more than the amount thus found to be due decreed by the court. An ordinary tenant has no right of transfer. The tenure is heritable in direct succession, but not by collaterals unless they are co-sharers in the holding.

71. There remains the class of 'village-service' tenants, who hold their land rent-free or at a reduced rent on condition of rendering customary service. The principal village servant is the watchman (*kotwal*), but in some districts village accountants (*patwaris*) hold large areas of service land. Village artisans and servants generally derive most of their remuneration from fees, but in so far as they hold patches of service land they fall into this class. Village-service tenants.

72. The proportions in which village land in the *khalsa* are distributed between the various classes of subordinate holders are shown for each division below:— Proportionate strength of the different tenures.

Division.	Percentage of area held—						Total.
	By malik-makbuzas.	In absolute occupancy tenure.	In occupancy tenure.	In ordinary tenure.	Completely or partially revenue-free.	Rent-free.	
Jubbulpore ...	2·6	10·1	16·3	51·2	·3	1·4	81·9
Nerbudda ..	4·6	14·0	31·0	31·9	·6	1·4	83·5
Nagpur ...	5·7	12·5	38·3	24·3	·5	1·1	82·4
Chhattisgarh ...	·8	6·3	25·3	42·0	·0	2·1	76·5
Central Provinces...	3·3	10·5	27·9	37·5	·3	1·5	81·0

The balance of area, ranging from 16·5 to 23·5 per cent, consists of the village proprietors' demesne lands. The demesne lands are classed either as *sir* or *khudkasht*, the former being so termed in virtue of a declaration by a Settlement Officer or Deputy Commissioner, and the latter representing land other than *sir*, in the proprietor's actual cultivating possession. Land is recorded as *sir* at settlement, when it has been in the cultivating possession of the proprietor for twelve years, or has been newly broken up and since cultivated by him for six years, unless its declaration as such would raise the area of the village *sir* to over 25 per cent of the total occupied area.[1] Land once declared to be *sir* is excluded from the acquisition of tenant right, and can be leased out on such terms as the landlord pleases; but over other land in the proprietor's possession, if leased out, the lessee acquires tenant rights.

73. Berar has been settled on the Bombay *raiyatwari* system, under which each field forms a separate holding for which the occupier engages separately with Government. The holder of a field or "survey number" is called the registered occupant or *khatedar*, and he holds on condition of paying the assessment and other dues. Failure to pay these dues renders him liable to forfeit the right of occupancy and all rights connected with it, such as those over trees and buildings on the land. Land thus forfeited reverts to Government, and the right of occupancy is put up to auction after due notice. No occupant is bound to hold his land for more than a single year. He may relinquish it or any portion of it after due notice, or may dispose of the occupancy right by mortgage, sale or otherwise; but he is responsible for the revenue of the year in which he relinquishes or transfers his right. An occupant may retain his right for ever, if he chooses, subject to payment of the assessment and dues, which are liable to Berar. Raiyatwari tenure.

[1] An exception may be allowed to this rule in the case of land newly broken up.

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revision once every thirty years. He may effect any improvement that he pleases, and may erect farm and agricultural buildings on the land; but he must not divert his holding to purposes other than agriculture without the permission of the Deputy Commissioner. He may also sublet his holding by private arrangement, which is, however, not entered in the revenue records. Co-sharers and co-occupants possess interests similar in kind to those of the registered occupant. A co-sharer is a partner in the whole field, cultivating jointly with the *khatedar* on the co-operative system; a co-occupant occupies and cultivates a specific portion of a field. Co-sharers and co-occupants may have co-sharers and co-occupants claiming under them, and not directly from the *khatedar*. There are two exceptional varieties of co-sharers, one of whom gets his share by personal labour in the field, and the other by supplying bullocks. The latter variety of sub-tenure is rare.

Extraordinary tenures.

74. Besides the ordinary *raiyatwari* tenure, there are four kinds of extraordinary tenure, namely, *jagir*, *inam*, *palampat*, and *izara*. The term *jagir* means a rent-free holding of one or more whole villages. The *jagir* villages, which occur in every *taluq*, were nearly all granted either by the Delhi Emperors or by the Nizam, one or two only deriving from the Peshwas. The term *inam* is applied to fields as *jagir* is to villages. *Inams* have been granted for charitable objects, for service in villages, offices or in temples, and sometimes as purely personal favours. Waste land was usually granted, often on a life-tenure only; but a little interest got the rent-free estate continued to heirs, and tenures of this sort are among the oldest in Berar. There seems to have been a tacit understanding that grants of this kind, once bestowed, should not lapse. *Palampat* tenure is similar to tenure in *jagir*, but the holding is not entirely free, a fixed proportion of the rent being paid to Government. *Deshmukhs* and *deshpandyas* in Yeotmal hold a few *palampat* villages under ancient grants.

75. The *izaradar* is the lessee of an integral waste village, holding under a lease from Government, which may be for any term not extending beyond the next settlement of the *taluq* in which the village is situated. For the first three years no rent is paid. In the fourth year either one-fifth or one-tenth of the full assessment has to be paid; in the fifth year the rent is doubled, in the sixth trebled, and so on, until the full assessment is reached. The object of the lease being to encourage the breaking-up of the land for cultivation, tracts containing valuable timber are excluded, and quarrying or mining is prohibited; but special arrangements are made in the lessee's favour in the case of an excess of unculturable land, and special rules are laid down with regard to grazing. During the currency of the lease the *izaradar* is *patel* and *patwari* of the village; and at its expiry, when the village is liable to re-assessment, these offices are offered to him, and he is registered as the *khatedar* of all land then actually occupied by him. Such are the rules of 1880, which are now in force. Under the former rules of 1865 the term of the lease was limited to thirty years, and the lessee had the option, on the termination of his lease, of constituting the village as his private property in perpetuity, subject to the annual payment to Government of one-half of a fair assessment—liable to revision every 30 years—upon the whole of the culturable area.

76. In 1911 the number of villages held under each class of tenure was as follows:—

Class of tenure.	Number of villages.	Area in acres.	Assessment.	
			Assigned to lambardars, &c.	Paid to Government.
			Rs.	Rs.
Raiyatwari [1]	6,243	9,337,301	80,513	82,21,583
Jagir	208	409,630	1,98,591	34,324
Inam [2]	2	2,520	1,386	...
Palampat	16	21,083	15,225	9,747
Izara	396	751,422	1,50,237	1,49,914

[1] The number of fields held as *inam* in *raiyatwari* villages cannot be given.

[2] These are whole villages granted in *inam*.

5—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

The Cadastral Survey.

77. The Settlements of 1863 and the following years included the making of a field map for every village with the exception, in some districts, of those comprised within zamindari estates; but the measurements were generally rough and inaccurate and as the maps were not kept up to date, they had in a great measure become obsolete when the time for resettlement came round. A survey of village lands by professional agency had been effected almost *pari passu* with the original settlement survey, but the two operations were conducted quite independently, and the measurements plotted on different scales, one being used merely as a check upon the other. A complete resurvey was necessary for the proper conduct of the second series of settlements, and it was effected on a system which presented some points of novelty. As at the previous settlement, the village lands were surveyed professionally as well as by local agency, but with the important difference that the professional survey furnished the basis of the local field survey, instead of being conducted independently and used merely as a check. The work of the professional surveyors was confined to the determination of convenient points on the village boundary and within the village area by means of the theodolite and chain, that is to say it was confined to traversing, and did not extend to field survey. A traverse was run along the boundary of each village with stations about 30 chains apart, and, if the village was a good sized one, this was supplemented by one or more sub-traverses across the village lands. These operations resulted in the construction of a skeleton map of each village, showing the position of a series of theodolite stations lying close to the village boundary and within it. The local agency employed to fill in exterior and interior details on the basis of these traverse plots was that of the village accountants (or patwaris), utilized not as a general district staff, but each man for the survey of his own circle. The traverse maps were made over to the patwari, who, by chaining from one station to another and across from line to line, plotted in the details of the actual village and field boundaries. The method of survey was precisely that of the professional cadastral survey adopted a few years previously in the United Provinces, but instead of the whole of the work—plotting as well as traversing—being performed by professional agency, it was divided into two operations, one of which—that performed with the theodolite and chain, and requiring accurate angulation and chaining—was carried out by professional surveyors, while the other, the field plotting, which is comparatively simple, was effected by the patwaris. The method by which the important process of area calculation was effected was that followed in professional cadastral surveys, *i. e.*, areas were calculated mechanically from the maps by the planimeter and acre-comb, instead of by the more clumsy fashion of mensuration, as had been the practice in previous surveys. This system has now been extended over the Provinces generally and has given satisfactory results. The amount of new traverse-work still remaining is insignificant. The Revenue Inspector's circle is taken as the unit for such map correction—all patwaris of the circle working together in one party for convenience of supervision. Any isolated areas which require to be surveyed for the first time are dealt with on the lines above described as forming the standard land survey system of these Provinces.

78. The cadastral survey of the whole area of the Provinces held in malguzari right, and zamindari areas, comprising 58,413 square miles, has been completed at a cost of a little over Rs. 40 per square mile. The cost of the traverse survey amounts to Rs. 26-8-0 per square mile and gives a total average cost of a little over Rs. 66-8-0 per square mile. The cadastral surveys of 1,144 square miles of Jagir lands and 3,054 square miles of raiyatwari areas have also been completed at a cost of Rs. 29-8-0 and 30-13-5 respectively, the traverse expenditure giving a rate of Rs. 27 per square mile. This practically completes the whole of British territory with the exception of small isolated tracts and villages, which are being taken up, year by year, as the villages become more densely occupied and cultivation extends. Up to 1908 all traversing operations were done by the Imperial Survey of India Department, since when a small traverse detachment has been formed to meet all local requirements. Much of the area surveyed by a staff of village accountants is jungle, and affords but little detail to complicate measurements. On the

other hand, the fields in some localities are extremely small, running sometimes 50 to the acre.

Revision of Settlement.

79. When a settlement is on the point of expiring, the Settlement Commissioner calls upon the Deputy Commissioner to report through the Divisional Commissioner as to whether revision is desirable either on revenue or administrative grounds. On receiving this report, he submits it with his own opinion to the Local Administration for the orders of the Government of India. If revision is sanctioned, one officer is posted to bring the maps and records up to date, and another, usually the Settlement Officer designate, to prepare a forecast report in which an estimate is given of the probable result of revision. This forecast is also submitted to the Government of India.

80. When orders have been received the Settlement Officer sends out attestation parties under Assistant Settlement Officers to revise the soil classification, so far as may be necessary, to verify rents as recorded by the patwaris and to inquire into any disputes or complaints that are put forward. As soon as possible after this attestation he visits the villages himself.

81. The soil is classified according to depth, position, cropping, and a number of other considerations, and for every class an appropriate factor is selected. These factors are based on :—

(*a*) Crop experiments.
(*b*) Rents actually paid.
(*c*) The opinions of cultivators.

By a crop experiment is meant the cutting and weighing of the crop of a fixed area in selected fields, and the tabulation and comparison of the results of a large number of cuttings with a view to ascertaining the standard outturn. The chief use of crop experiments is to indicate roughly, through the gross outturns obtained, the general superiority of various classes of soil over various other classes, without establishing the precise degrees of difference to be given effect to in the soil factors. They cannot usually be carried out on a sufficiently extensive scale or continued over a sufficient number of seasons to afford us absolutely reliable averages. Similarly, in the case of rents, it rarely happens that a rental can be obtained which refers only to one class of soil, since most holdings comprise two or more descriptions of land. The aid, therefore, which rents afford is also rather a check upon conclusions otherwise obtained than an absolute guide to the framing of soil factors. The third and last guide is the principal one. This is obtained in two ways, firstly, by constantly interrogating the people in the field as to the relative value of different lands within their immediate view; and, secondly, by calling together representative malguzars who are themselves experienced cultivators, and invoking their assistance in the framing of the factor scale. What is claimed from the methods pursued is that the different types of land which have been separately named are recognized, though local terms for their description may vary, by the intelligent members of the community; that the record of each field under one or more of the types to which it is judged to belong, has been carried out under the eyes of the people, their opinions being freely sought, and their objections considered; and that, in the matter of valuation, the relative value which common opinion assigns to the different types, and hence to the average fields which have been recorded under those types, has received expression in the soil factors. The preparation of the scale of soil factors occupies the attention of the Settlement Officer from the time that he is posted to the district to prepare the forecast, and as soon as he is able to formulate his conclusions, he submits them for the orders of the Settlement Commissioner.

82. As soon as possible after the Settlement Officer has inspected a village, the papers (attestation files) are sent into office, where they are checked and copied in the vernacular office. They are then made over to the English Office to apply the appropriate factors and determine the unit value of each field and holding, and of all the rent-paying holdings of the village collectively. The existing raiyati payments are then divided by the total number of soil units disclosed by the land supporting those payments, which gives an incidence in annas and decimals of an anna per raiyati soil unit. The Settlement Officer

then divides the villages into groups, which are, as far as possible, homogeneous. He examines the condition of each village and makes proposals for raising or lowering the raiyati unit-incidence of each. He fixes a standard rate for the group on general considerations, of which the chief will be the rise in prices since the last preceding settlement. With this standard to guide him, he fixes, in relation to the raiyati unit-incidence of each village, a unit-rate which, when multiplied into the soil units of all the holdings of the village, will yield what his local inspection leads him to consider a suitable revision of rents, and a suitable valuation of any land such as home-farm which is not assessed to rent. These proposals are submitted in a Rent-rate Report through the Settlement Commissioner for the sanction of the Local Administration.

83. On receipt of sanction to the village unit-rates with such modifications as the Local Administration may desire, the Settlement Officer multiplies the soil units of each holding in each village of the group by its sanctioned unit-rate. This discloses a deduced rent for each holding, which is placed before the Settlement Officer in a compilation, known as the raiyatwari abstract, showing the present rent, the deduced rent, and full details of the varying classes of soil, irrigation, &c., comprised in the holding. With the information which was collected at the village-to-village inspections regarding the material condition of each tenant before him, the Settlement Officer proceeds to fix a revised rent for each tenant and a revised valuation for each holding not assessed to rent.

Deduced rents.

84. It has been explained that the present rent of one soil unit or the unit incidence is obtained by dividing the total number of soil units in the village into the rental of the village. Further, by taking the rental at the previous settlement which is recorded in the settlement record, and deducting from the total number of soil units that quantity which represents land brought under cultivation since the preceding settlement, the incidence of rent per soil unit at settlement can be deduced in a similar manner. The percentage by which on the score of the rise in prices and general considerations it would be desirable to raise the rental of the preceding settlement has already been determined. The settlement soil unit incidence or the rent paid for one soil unit is then raised by this percentage. Thus if the soil unit incidence of settlement is one anna, and it has been determined that an increase in the rental of 25 per cent is warranted by the rise in prices, the revised rent for one soil unit is fixed at one anna three pies. The figure thus obtained is called the unit-rate. This unit-rate is then multiplied by the existing number of soil units in each holding, and gives what is known as the deduced rent. The deduced rent, therefore, is that which each holding should, according to its intrinsic value, be called on to pay under the application of the percentage by which it has been decided that the gross rental can be increased.

Deductions from deduced rents.

85. In practice the procedure is more elaborate than this. The Settlement Officer does not take the whole tahsil together, but divides it into assessment groups, each of which is considered with reference to its physical features, character of cultivation, fertility of soil, trade and communications, agricultural history, and financial condition of the cultivators. The scale of soil factors may vary for different groups and also the percentage of enhancement. The rent rates of the different classes of tenants are calculated and discussed. For each group a standard unit rate is separately fixed. Further, when this has been sanctioned, each village in the group is considered by itself with reference to the above considerations and the information which has been obtained by the Settlement Officer at his inspection, and the standard rate may again be varied to suit the particular circumstances of individual villages. Finally, when the deduced rents have been calculated, the actual rents fixed need not correspond with them, but may vary according to a number of different considerations. The existing rent is always compared with the deduced rent. If the present rent be higher than the deduced rent it is allowed to stand unless it appears that it cannot be paid, or, if any actual payment by a sub-tenant shows that the deduced rent is unnecessarily low, a higher rent may be fixed. On the other hand, in order to avoid a large individual enhancement or to afford an indebted tenant an opportunity for recovery, a rent lower than the deduced rent may be, and very often is, fixed by the Settlement Officer. Deductions are made from

the deduced rents to allow for improvements effected by the tenants. A deduction in the rate of enhancement is also permissible in the holdings of privileged tenants, where owing to competition for land the rent-rate of ordinary tenants rules high. The effect of calculating the deduced rents is to enable the Settlement Officer to trace at once and accurately the causes which have been at work to alter the existing rents since settlement. In some cases the tenants may have made substantial additions to their holdings by breaking up fresh land, while the malguzar has been unable to effect any enhancement in their rents; in others fresh land held in ordinary right by privileged tenants may be rented at a sum far in excess of its value, the malguzar having adopted this means of obtaining what is really an enhancement on their original holding. Land on which a specially profitable crop, such as opium, was formerly cultivated may still be rented at an abnormal rate, though the special cultivation is no longer carried on. With the deduced rents and existing rents before him, the Settlement Officer can trace the exact statistical effect producted by any of the above circumstances, while without them he could only make general estimates. Moreover, the deduced rents enable the supervising revenue authority to follow clearly the Settlement Officer's own procedure and to form an opinion on the value of his arguments with a view to correcting or modifying his action where necessary. The soil unit system has, it has been shown, nothing to do with the rate of enhancement, but is merely a scheme for the correct proportionate valuation of land. The determination of soil factors, on which its working depends, is carried out in accordance with information obtained from the people.

86. The Settlement Officer's proposals for the revision of rents, for the valuation of holdings and for the assessment of waste lands with a view to disclosing the revised assets of each village, together with his proposals for the revision of revenue, are submitted for the approval of the Local Administration through the Settlement Commissioner. On receipt of sanction these rents and revenues are formally announced to all concerned, printed slips being given to each tenant showing him what his new rent is, and full details of his revised assets being given to each proprietor or lambardar. At the same time the proprietor's formal acceptance of the new assessment is taken in writing by which he agrees to pay the new assessment in its proper instalments for the term of the new settlement (usually 20 years), and thereafter until another assessment is imposed.

87. When orders on the Rent-rate and Assessment Reports of a whole tahsil have been received and the new settlement announced, a Tahsil Assessment Report is submitted through the Settlement Commissioner and the Local Administration to the Government of India. This gives a summary of the whole course of the settlement proceedings, justifies the various enhancements of rent and revenue, and pays special attention to any divergence of the final result from the original forecasts. Similarly, when all the tahsils have been re-assessed and the new rents and revenues announced for the whole district, the Settlement Officer submits a final report, collecting the whole information regarding the new settlement in regard to the entire district. On the receipt of this final report by the Local Administration, it is submitted to the Government of India with a request for the confirmation of the new assessment.

88. While the Rent-rate and Assessment Reports are being submitted for the various groups into which the tahsils and districts are divided and orders received on them, the Settlement Office is busy also with the preparation of the revised Record of Rights. This consists of a corrected field map, a field book (khasra), and rent roll (jamabandi), certain abstracted statistics and an Administration Paper (wajib-ul-arz) for each village in the district. These, with the exception of the wajib-ul-arz, are the annual village papers maintained by the Land Record Staff, but subjected to special scrutiny by the Settlement Department, which checks every figure and entry at its field-to-field inspection and then combines the whole in a single Settlement Misl. Of this Misl one copy is filed at the District Head-quarters, while a second is left with the patwari for local reference in the village. The wajib-ul-arz records the customs of the village, the easements and rights of way, the sources of drinking water and irrigation and the

manner in which they are utilized, the communal rights in regard to waste land, and so forth. This wajib-ul-arz is printed in the vernacular of the district and incorporated in the Record of Rights. The cadre of patwaris (village accountants) and of kotwars (village watchmen) is also revised. The register of muafi holders, *i.e.*, of those holding land wholly or partially revenue-free as against the Government, is re-written and a new kistbandi showing the revised Government demand for each village in the district is made over to the Deputy Commissioner. When all these duties have been performed, the new Record of Rights completed, and all the various reports submitted and orders received on them, the Settlement operations are brought to a close.

Raiyatwari settlement.

89. In raiyatwari villages the whole of the raiyats payments is taken as the Government revenue, subject to a small drawback allowed to the managing headman (*patel*) for the trouble of collection. Each raiyat is dealt with directly, and the headman has no responsibility for making good defaults of his raiyats. The payments of raiyats have in the past been calculated partly by the use of fixed scales of acreage rates and partly on the soil unit system. The latter is the procedure now generally followed.

Berar.

90. The whole province of Berar, with the exception of the Melghat taluq and some uncultivated tracts in the Wun and Basim districts as then constituted, was measured, classified, and assessed field by field under the Bombay Survey and Settlement Rules by the close of 1878. The settlements, which were sanctioned for a period of 30 years, commenced to expire in 1891, and revision settlement operations were completed for the whole area, except the taluqs of Kelapur, Wun, and Yeotmal, when the last decennial report was issued. Since then the revision of settlement has been completed in these taluqs as well, and the revised rates of assessment were collected in the Wun and Kelapur taluqs during the year 1906-07 and in the Yeotmal taluq in 1907-08. In the Pusad taluq, the settlement of which was postponed so as to enable the cultivators to recover from the effects of the famine before they were called upon to pay full assessment, the revised rates of assessment were announced and collected during the year 1909-10.

91. In 1906 the Conservator of Forests, Berar Circle, brought to the notice of the Administration the condition of the State Forests of the C Class situated in the Melghat taluq of the Amraoti district, with a view to the adoption of measures for their better treatment in future, and in the cold weather of 1906-07 an officer was placed on special duty to examine the condition of the taluq and report on the measures necessary for its better administration. Rent-rates have now been sanctioned for all villages in which a regular settlement was found desirable, and orders have been issued for the revision of plough rates in the remainder. In the course of these operations, the areas to be retained permanently as Government forest have been selected, and a more systematic system of management of the areas outside the permanent Government forests has been inaugurated.

92. A scheme for the preparation of a complete and authoritative record-of-rights for the whole of Berar has been initiated and is now under consideration. Its chief features are :—

(1) that the Chief Commissioner shall have power to order the preparation and maintenance of a complete record-of-rights in land ;

(2) that persons acquiring such rights shall be bound to report the fact and furnish information in regard to the rights they acquire, subject to the levy of a penalty for failing to do so ;

(3) that changes in the record-of-rights each year shall be made only by a Revenue Officer of a specified rank after local enquiry into disputes ;

(4) that entries in the record-of-rights so prepared shall be presumed to be true until the contrary is proved ;

(5) that a certified copy of the record-of-rights shall be filed with the plaint or application in every case that comes before a Civil Court.

These provisions have been adopted, *mutatis mutandis*, from Chapter X-A of the Bombay Record-of-rights Act, 1903.

6—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY

93. The combined Provinces are divided for administrative purposes into five Divisions, each controlled by a Commissioner, 22 districts, each in charge of a Deputy Commissioner, and 78 tahsils, each in charge of Tahsildar :—

Division.	Districts.	Tahsils.	Area and population of Tahsils.
Jubbulpore—area 18,953 sq. miles, population 2,421,064.	Saugor—area 3,962 sq. miles, population 541,410.	Saugor ...	Area 1,064 sq. miles. Population 150,690.
		Khurai ...	Area 940 sq. miles. Population 111,070.
		Rehli ...	Area 1,254 sq. miles. Population 157,815.
		Banda ...	Area 704 sq. miles. Population 81,835.
	Damoh—area 2,816 sq. miles, population 333,047.	Damoh ...	Area 1,797 sq. miles. Population 210,898.
		Hatta ...	Area 1,019 sq. miles. Population 122,149.
	Jubbulpore—area 3,012 sq. miles, population 745 892.	Jubbulpore ..	Area 1,117 sq. miles. Population 261,857.
		Sehora ...	Area 1,181 sq. miles. Population 204 869.
		Murwara ...	Area 1,190 sq. miles. Population 181,699.
		Patan ...	Area 424 sq. miles. Population 97 467.
	Mandla—area 5,057 sq. miles, population 405,234.	Mandla ...	Area 2,536 sq. miles. Population 222,169.
		Dindori ...	Area 2,521 sq. miles. Population 183 065.
	Seoni—area 3,206 sq. miles, population 395,481.	Seoni ...	Area 1,648 sq. miles. Population 224 805.
		Lakhnadon ...	Area 1,558 sq miles. Population 170,676.
Nerbudda—area 18,388 sq. miles, population 2,081,477.	Narsinghpur—area 1,976 sq. miles, population 325,677.	Narsinghpur ...	Area 1,068 sq. miles. Population 153,482.
		Gadarwara ...	Area 908 sq. miles. Population 172,195.
	Hoshangabad—area 3,682 sq. miles, population 457,395.	Hoshangabad ...	Area 774 sq. miles. Population 128,166.
		Harda ...	Area 1,125 sq. miles Population 126,915.
		Sohagpur ...	Area 1,261 sq. miles. Population 134,447.
		Seoni (Malwa) ...	Area 522 sq. miles. Population 64,867.
	Nimar—area 4,227 sq. miles, population 391,071.	Khandwa ...	Area 1,871 sq. miles. Population 205,348.
		Burhanpur ...	Area 1,138 sq. miles. Population 107,723.
		Harsud ...	Area 1,218 sq. miles. Population 78,000.
	Betul—area 3,872 sq. miles, population 390,386.	Betul ...	Area 1,802 sq. miles. Population 150,493.
		Multai ...	Area 969 sq. miles. Population 154,525.
		Bhaisdehi ...	Area 1,101 sq. miles. Population 85,368.
	Chhindwara—area 4,631 sq. miles, population 516,948.	Chhindwara ...	Area 3,522 sq. miles. Population 365,461.
		Sausar ...	Area 1,109 sq. miles. Population 151,487.

Division.	Districts.	Tahsils.	Area and population of Tahsils.
Nagpur—area 22,677 sq. miles, population 3,109,838.	Wardha—area 2,428 sq. miles, population 459,796.	Wardha	Area 809 sq. miles. Population 177,534.
		Arvi	Area 890 sq. miles. Population 166,172.
		Hinganghat	Area 729 sq. miles. Population 116,090.
	Nagpur—area 3,840 sq. miles, population 809,901	Nagpur	Area 810 sq. miles. Population 249,535.
		Ramtek	Area 897 sq. miles. Population 145,147.
		Umrer	Area 969 sq. miles. Population 144,930.
		Katol	Area 617 sq. miles. Population 142,713.
		Saoner	Area 547 sq. miles. Population 127,576.
	Chanda—area 9,312 sq. miles, population 677,544.	Chand	Area 1,174 sq. miles. Population 154,526.
		Warora	Area 1,282 sq. miles. Population 158,546.
		Brahmapuri	Area 897 sq. miles. Population 150,818.
		Garchiroli	Area 2,870 sq. miles. Population 143,880.
		Sironcha	Area 3,089 sq. miles. Population 69,774.
	Bhandara—area 3,965 sq. miles, population 773,677.	Bhandara	Area 1,088 sq. miles. Population 235,445.
		Tirora	Area 1,328 sq. miles. Population 338,277.
		Sakoli	Area 1,549 sq. miles. Population 199,955.
	Balaghat—area 3,132 sq. miles, population 388,920.	Balaghat	Area 1,388 sq. miles. Population 283,631.
		Baihar	Area 1,744 sq. miles. Population 105,289.
Chattisgarh—area 22,039 sq. miles, population 3,246,767.	Raipur—area 9,776 sq. miles, population 1,324,856.	Raipur	Area 1,016 sq. miles. Population 252,775.
		Mahasamund	Area 5,229 sq. miles. Population 513,284.
		Baloda Bazar	Area 1,933 sq. miles. Population 337,425.
		Dhamtari	Area 1,598 sq. miles. Population 221,372.
	Bilaspur—area 7,618 sq. miles, population 1,146,223.	Bilaspur	Area 3,111 sq. miles. Population 399,648.
		Mungeli	Area 1,452 sq. miles. Population 214,851.
		Janjgir	Area 3,055 sq. miles. Population 531,724.
	Drug—area 4,645 sq. miles, population 775,688.	Drug	Area 1,064 sq. miles. Population 246,691.
		Bemetara	Area 1,566 sq. miles. Population 267,497.
		Sanjari	Area 2,015 sq. miles. Population 261,500.

CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY

Division.	Districts.	Tahsils.	Area and population of Tahsils.
Berar—area 17,766 sq. miles, population 3,057,162.	Amraoti—area 4,733 sq. miles, population 875,904.	Amraoti	Area 672 sq. miles. Population 189,172.
		Morsi	Area 623 sq. miles. Population 154,144.
		Chandur	Area 855 sq. miles. Population 204,133.
		Ellichpur	Area 469 sq. miles. Population 142,863.
		Daryapur	Area 505 sq. miles. Population 129,534.
		Melghat	Area 1,609 sq. miles. Population 56,058.
	Akola—area 4,097 sq. miles, population 788,863.	Akola	Area 739 sq. miles. Population 156,717.
		Akot	Area 521 sq. miles. Population 137,874.
		Balapur	Area 551 sq. miles. Population 111,550.
		Basim	Area 1,046 sq. miles. Population 165,606.
		Mangrul	Area 630 sq. miles. Population 95,130.
		Murtizapur	Area 610 sq. miles. Population 121,986.
	Buldana—area 3,731 sq. miles, population 669,182.	Chikhli	Area 1,009 sq. miles. Population 145,633.
		Mehkar	Area 1,027 sq. miles. Population 142, c67.
		Khamgaon	Area 442, sq. miles. Population 101,068.
		Jalgaon	Area 461 sq. miles. Population 91,372.
		Malkapur	Area 792 sq. miles. Population 180,042.
	Yeotmal—area 5,205 sq. miles, population 723,213.	Yeotmal	Area 908 sq. miles. Population 150,891.
		Kelapur	Area 1,086 sq. miles. Population 130,797.
		Wun	Area 862 sq. miles. Population 108,070.
		Darwha	Area 1,064 sq. miles. Population 181,281.
		Pusad	Area 1,285 sq. miles. Population 152,174.

Incorporated with the districts are 106 zamindaris and jagirs or large estates separately assessed on a somewhat favourable rental, and held generally on a privileged tenure. These are attached to the Hoshangabad, Chhindwara, Chanda, Bhandara, Balaghat, Raipur, Bilaspur and Sambalpur districts. The Provinces also include 15 Feudatory States, forming the territories of hereditary Chiefs, whose relations with the Administration are controlled by a Political Agent appointed for this purpose.

7—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

Area and Population. Summary.

94. Between the census of 1901 and that of 1911 important administrative changes took place in the area included in the scope of the operations. These changes were the amalgamation of Berar with the Central Provinces, the transfer of the larger portion of the Sambalpur district to Bengal, and of a small portion of the Chanda district to Madras, and the transfer to Bengal of five Uriya-speaking States in exchange for five Hindi-speaking States of the Chhota Nagpur Agency. The changes resulted in a net addition of 15,103 square miles and 1,729,563 persons to the area and population dealt with in the Central Provinces census of 1901. The result of the sixth general census of the Provinces, which was taken on the night of the 10th March 1911, showed a population of 16,033,310, an increase of 2,430,718, or 17·9 per cent over the population of 1901 for the same area. The population of British districts in the Central Provinces is 10,859,146, of Feudatory States 2,117,002, and of Berar 3,057,162. These figures show increases of 17·8, 29·7, and 11·0 over the corresponding figures for 1901. The comparatively large percentage of increase in the Feudatory States is due partly to more accurate enumeration, and partly to the return of families which emigrated during the famines of the last decade. At the time of the census the Central Provinces was sixth in area and seventh in population of the nine Provinces of India, being larger in area than the United Provinces, Eastern Bengal and Assam, and the North-West Frontier Province, and larger in population than Burma and the North-West Frontier Province. It contained seven per cent of the area of India and five per cent of the population.

Administrative sub-divisions.

95. Of the five administrative divisions, the largest in area is Nagpur, with 22,677 square miles, or almost the size of Belgium and Holland, and the smallest is Berar, with 17,766 square miles. In population the largest is Chhattisgarh, with 3,246,767 persons, and the smallest Nerbudda, with 2,081,477 persons. The average area of a division is 19,965 square miles, and the average population is 2,783,262. The largest district in the Provinces is Raipur, with an area of 9,776 square miles, and a population of 1,324,856 persons. The smallest is Narsinghpur, which has an area of 1,976 square miles, and a population of 325,677 persons. The average size of a district is 4,537 square miles, or rather larger than Devon and Somerset, and the average population is 632,559 persons. The average land revenue demand of a district is Rs. 8,32,634, or an incidence of Re. 1-3-5 per head of population. The largest tahsil is Mahasamund, in the Raipur district, with an area of 5,229 square miles, and a population of 513,284. The smallest in area is Patan, in the Jubbulpore district, with 424 square miles; but the Melghat taluq of Amraoti, with a population of 56,058 persons, is the smallest in point of numbers. The average size of a tahsil is 1,280 square miles, and the average population 178,414 persons. Of the Feudatory States, Bastar, with an area of 13,062 square miles and a population of 430,310 persons, is the largest; the smallest in area is Sakti, with 138 square miles, and the smallest in population is Makrai, with 15,021 persons.

Average size of Divisions.

Province.	Area.	Population.
Assam ...	26,507	3,356,817
Bengal ...	15,750	9,006,615
Bombay ...	80,745	4,906,619
Burma ...	20,551	1,326,282
Central Provinces and Berar.	19,965	2,783,262
Madras ...	23,722	6,900,901
Punjab ...	19,956	3,994,991
United Provinces ...	11,919	5,242,449

Average size of Districts.

Province.	Area.	Population.
Assam ...	4,418	559,470
Bengal ...	2,811	1,624,395
Bombay ...	4,919	785,059
Burma ...	4,444	286,764
Central Provinces and Berar.	4,537	632,559
Madras ...	4,908	1,427,772
Punjab ...	3,326	665,832
United Provinces ...	2,235	982,959

DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

Density.

96. The density of population per square mile is now 122, as against 113 in 1891, and 104 in 1901. The most thinly populated tract in the Provinces is the Bastar State, which has only 33 inhabitants to the square mile. Of the many factors bearing on the comparative density of the population, besides the natural fertility of the soil and the abundance of the rainfall, the most important are :—

Natural Division.	Density per square mile.
Nerbudda Valley	136
Plateau	102
Maratha Plain	152
Chhattisgarh Plain	111
Chhattisgarh (British Districts) ...	147

(*a*) the enormous increase of wealth due to the cotton trade, and the very large demand for labour in connection with the various operations of the trade ;

(*b*) the abundant crops of rice and coarse millets produced in the Chhattisgarh country, the absence, till comparatively recent times, of adequate transport facilities in that region, and the consequent low price of grain, enabling the population to multiply with the fecundity of easy conditions and a low standard of life ;

(*c*) the comparatively small demand for labour for the wheat crop, which is neither manured, irrigated, nor weeded, and the fact that, unlike the rice tract, the wheat tract has never been land-locked.

Villages.

97. The total number of towns and villages in the Provinces is 47,785, of which 47,668 are villages, inhabited by 924 per mille of the population. The average population of each village was returned at the census as 311, but it is probable that this figure is above the normal, owing to the disturbance of the urban population by plague. The average number of persons living in each house is 4·9. The average area of a village in the British districts of the Central Provinces, excluding Government forests, is 1,141 acres, and in Berar 1,560 acres. The average net cropped area in the Central Provinces is 535 acres, and in Berar 1,228 acres. Of the total rural population, 527 per mille live in villages of under 500 inhabitants, 406 in villages between 500 and 2,000, and 67 in villages between 2,000 and 5,000. The Maratha Plain is the only division in which the congregation of the population in large villages, connoting a definite stage of economic development beyond that of the self-contained and self-sufficient agricultural community, has taken place as yet to any marked extent. The percentage of the rural population of that division which lives in villages of over 2,000 persons is 11·8, against 5·8 in the Nerbudda Valley, 4·6 in the Plateau, 2·9 in Chhattisgarh, and 6·7 for the whole Province.

Towns.

98. The number of places classed as towns is 117, of which 65 are in British districts, 47 in Berar, and 5 in the States. These include 18 places which, though classed as towns, showed at the census a population of less than 5,000. The urban population numbered 1,213,049, a decrease of 94,023, or 7 per cent ; but these figures are largely fictitious. An outbreak of plague in the Nerbudda Valley and Maratha Plain scattered a large number of town dwellers, especially females, into the surrounding villages, and any effective comparison with the figures of previous years is therefore impossible. The city of Nagpur, which numbered 101,415 inhabitants at the census, showed 134,000 at a re-census in September, its population in 1901 having been 127,734. Jubbulpore, where there was no plague at the time of the census, increased during the decade from 90,533 to 100,651. The figures in the margin show the results of the September re-census in some of the towns affected. It is evident that the same economic influences, which operate in every progressive country during its transition stage to draw the population from the village to the town, are at work in the richer parts of the Central Provinces ; but to what extent this is the case, it is unfortunately impossible to gauge with any accuracy.

	Census.	Re-census.
Akot ...	12,583	14,830
Ellichpur ...	13,909	24,435
Khamgaon ...	10,123	13,171
Kampti ...	17,155	23,992
Basim ...	9,068	11,217
Paratwara ...	4,001	6,962
Hoshangabad ...	5,503	12,099
Tumsar ...	4,378	6,547

Density.

99. The population of the 8 towns with more than 20,000 inhabitants is shown in the margin. Saugor, Raipur, and Khandwa show steady increases, Amraoti has been adversely affected by the transfer of the Judicial Commissioner's Court and other offices to Nagpur, and Akola is stationary. Burhanpur, which shows a decrease of over 10,000 persons, is undoubtedly a decadent city. Of the towns with less than 20,000 inhabitants (109) by far the larger number (86) belong to the class of small townships with a normal population between 5,000 and 10,000. The marginal statement shows the proportion of urban to rural population in each natural division of the Provinces. The districts with the highest percentage of urban population are Nagpur (24·1), Amraoti (17·8), Jubbulpore (16·8), and Saugor (14·0). The average number of persons in each house was the same as at the two previous censuses, *viz.*, 4·5.

Nagpur	101,415
Jubbulpore	100,651
Saugor	45,908
Raipur	35,335
Amraoti	34,270
Akola	25,826
Burhanpur	22,777
Khandwa	21,604

	Percentage of urban to rural population.
Nerbudda Valley	11·3
Plateau	3·9
Maratha Plain	11·4
Chhattisgarh Plain	2·8

Variations in the population.[1]

100. The years 1901—07, following on the disastrous closing years of the previous decade, were marked by a gradual but sure recovery among the agricultural classes, and by rapid progress in commerce. The general prosperity of the people during this period was reflected in the vital statistics, the birth-rate rising from 29·2 in 1901 to 54 in 1905. At the same time the death-rate, which, owing to the exceptionally high infant mortality, usually fluctuates very closely with the birth-rate, rose from 24·6 to 37·2. The year 1906 was unhealthy, a severe epidemic of cholera, especially in Berar, bringing the death-rate up to 43·4 against a birth-rate of 51·7. The failure of the monsoon of 1907 occasioned another set-back to the prosperity of the Province, but climatic conditions were not unhealthy and the calamity was not reflected in the vital statistics, the birth-rate and death-rate for 1908 being 52·8 and 38·1, respectively. The two remaining years were marked by good harvests, the birth-rates being 51·6 and 55·4 and the death-rates 33·0 and 44·8. The rate for 1910 was influenced by the prevalence of epidemic malarial fever due to the heavy rainfall of 1909. The excess of births over deaths during the decade was 1,627,508, against an excess of 1,944,856 shown by the census figures. Of the balance of 317,348, it is calculated that about 230,000 represents the excess of immigration over emigration during the decade. This calculation is necessarily of a very rough nature, and it is impossible to say how much of the remaining 87,000 is to be accounted for by omissions to report births, especially during plague time, and how much by under-estimation of the number of surviving immigrants. The Census Superintendent sums up the factors that have contributed to the increase as follows:—

"The growth of population by natural reproduction has been most marked in those tracts, inhabited by aboriginal tribes or Dravidian castes, which were most severely affected by the famines and scarcity of the previous decade, *viz.*, the districts of the Plateau and Chhattisgarh Plain Divisions and the Wainganga Valley districts of the Maratha Plain Division.* Here the large natural increase must be considered abnormal and to be due to a birth-rate influenced by those factors which are usually described under some such general expression as an outbreak of fecundity following on a period of depression. In the northern and western districts inhabited by castes of northern origin, this impulse of fertility is less marked, and owing partly to endemic malaria and partly apparently to racial characteristics the rate of reproduction has been distinctly lower. While the Provinces as a whole, and the central, southern and eastern districts especially, have benefited by immigration and a return of emigrants, the districts of the Nerbudda Valley proper have been depleted by emigration, while plague has, by dispersing the people in the western districts

* Division or District.	Percentage of increase.
Nerbudda Valley	10·7
Plateau Division ,, ...	27·3
Maratha Plain ,, ...	13·9
Chhattisgarh Plain ,, ...	23·3
Chhota Nagpur States ...	29·4
Yeotmal District	25·6
Balaghat ,, ...	19·5
Chanda ,, ...	26·9

[1] Figures for the Feudatory States are not included in any of the figures in this paragraph.

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of the Maratha Plain Division and checking the ordinary seasonal immigration, disguised to some extent the real increase in the population of the Berar districts. Finally, in the remoter parts of the Provinces, and especially in the Chhota Nagpur States and some of the less advanced States of the Chhattisgarh Plain, increased accuracy of enumeration has exaggerated the real expansion of population due to immigration and natural growth."

101. Of the total population of 16 millions, nearly 14 millions, or 87 per cent, were born in the district or State in which they were enumerated. This is the same percentage as in Bombay. In Bengal the percentage is 92, and in Madras 96. Of the remaining 13 per cent, 7 per cent were born in districts in the Provinces contiguous to, and 1·4 per cent in districts in the Provinces remote from, that of enumeration. The balance represents the volume of immigration from outside. The sources from which these immigrants are chiefly drawn are shown in the marginal statement. Speaking broadly, the immigrants from Bengal are largely sawyers and agricultural labourers for Chhattisgarh. Those from the United Provinces are contractors and labourers in connection with road, railway and irrigation works, policemen, or up-country soldiers quartered in the Provinces with their regiments. They are most numerous in the northern districts, but a considerable number have found homes in Nagpur, Berar, and the Chhattisgarh districts. Those from Bombay are mostly Bohras, Parsis, and other traders, found chiefly in the western districts. Those from Hyderabad are agricultural labourers who periodically come to Berar for the cotton-picking, and stay on for general labour and the spring harvest. From Central India there are four currents of immigration:—(1) a casual migration between the southern States of the Agency and the northern districts of the Nerbudda Valley and Mandla; (2) a temporary immigration of labourers, especially from Rewah, for work on road, railway and irrigation construction and on mining. These labourers are to be found on the Satpura line, the Itarsi-Nagpur line, the manganese works in the Wainganga Valley, and the railway and irrigation works in Chhattisgarh and Chanda; (3) a periodic flow of labour into the Nerbudda Valley for the harvest; (4) a considerable stream of cultivating and trading immigrants of a more permanent type into the Feudatory States, especially the Chhota Nagpur States, where most of the business, trades, and handicrafts are in the hands of immigrants from the north. Two-thirds of the emigration from the Provinces takes place to contiguous parts of other Provinces, females predominating in the proportion of 55 to 45. The predominance indicates that a large proportion of this migration is of the "casual" type, which consists of movements between adjacent villages, and arises largely from the prevalent custom of obtaining a wife from another village. The tea-gardens of Assam, where there are at present 77,000 labourers born in the Central Provinces, is the only non-contiguous province to which any stream of emigration flows, though the Calcutta Docks attract a considerable number of labourers from the Raipur and Bilaspur districts. The number of immigrants from outside the Provinces rose by 15 per cent during the decade, and the number of emigrants from the Provinces by 11 per cent, these increases being in addition to the number required to fill up the gaps caused by mortality.

Migration.

Bengal	...	...	128,116
United Provinces	...	...	130,799
Bombay	...	...	86,003
Hyderabad	...	...	92,731
Central India	...	...	198,560

102. The census shows a substantial increase in migration between the natural divisions of the Provinces; but the increase is not proportionate to the growth of the population. "The exchange between districts has, however, considerably increased; migration is more voluntary and self-conscious, and the facility for obtaining work outside the immediate vicinity of his home and the popularity of railway work, with its high wages and pleasant wagon life, has done much to educate the labourer's intelligence and improve his remuneration. Enterprise and the spirit of adventure have superseded the old parochial contentment, and it is reported that it is sometimes easier to get coolies to work on irrigation work in a neighbouring district than on the same employment in their own district. In regard to more permanent forms of migration, we have the concentration from the country into the towns, especially in the Maratha Plain Division, and an influx of traders, engineers, mechanics and skilled workmen who have followed the expansion of trade and industries, while the development of raiyatwari cultivation and the opening out of waste land by irrigation in the Wainganga Valley, Nimar and Chhattisgarh has

attracted permanent settlers from both within and without the Provinces and afforded an opening for the surplus cultivating population of the more congested districts."

Religion.

103. The marginal table shows the distribution of the principal religions of the last two censuses. Out of each thousand of the population, 798 are Hindus, 155 Animists, 36 Mussalmans, 4 Christians, and 4 Jains. The remainder, aggregating little more than 5,000 persons, are Sikhs, Parsis, Jews, &c. At the previous census the proportion was Hindus 813, Animists 140, Mussalmans 38, Christians 2, and Jains 5.

Religion.	Number (in thousands) in—	
	1911	1901
Hindus ...	12,807	11,071
Animists ...	2,490	1,912
Musalmans ...	585	512
Christians ...	73	27
Jains ...	71	67

Animists.

104. The number of persons returned as Animists shows an increase of 30 per cent on the figures for the previous census. It is probable, however, that about 10 per cent of this increase is due to differences in classification at the last census and at this. The gradual Brahmanising of the aboriginal, non-Aryan, or casteless tribes, though it was not conspicuous during the decade, is gradually going on, and is aided by the fact that the tribes are not looked upon by the Hindus as impure. The process of absorption is more or less a civilising one. They abandon their forest life and migratory methods of cultivation; they abandon their tribal gods or give them the names of Hindu deities, and begin to venerate Brahmans and to refrain from killing cows; and they abandon their tribal language and adopt the Aryan vernacular of the locality. The three processes are all phases of one movement; and the exact stage in that movement at which Animism ceases, and Hinduism begins, is almost impossible to determine. Readers who are interested in the question must be referred to the Census Reports. The Andhs, Halbas, Kolis and Rautias have been almost totally absorbed into Hinduism, while a very small percentage of Sawaras, Kawars, Bhainas, Bhils Binjhwars and Binjhias retain their old religion. Only 16 per cent of the Gonds returned their religion as Hindus, but they, too, are reported to be gradually succumbing, especially in the north and in Berar. The number and proportion of Animists in the various natural divisions is shown in the margin. In spite of the tendencies noted above, the proportion of Animists to the total population, which was 13 in 1881, has risen to 15½, whereas the proportion of Hindus has fallen in the same period from 83 to 80. The explanation lies in the greater fecundity of the aboriginal tribes. As an illustration, in Saugor, a Hindu district, every ten Hindu families of five persons produced 15 babies during the decade; in Bastar State, where more than half the population are aborigines, the same number of Animistic families produced 18. The districts in which the growth of population has usually been largest are those of the Plateau, the Wainganga Valley, and the Chhattisgarh Plain, and all these tracts contain a large proportion of aboriginals professing animistic beliefs.

Division.	Number (in thousands).	Percentage of population.
Nerbudda Valley ...	221	7·8
Plateau ...	713	41·7
Maratha Plain ...	492	7·9
Chhattisgarh Plain ...	759	16·5
Chhota Nagpur ...	303	40·2

Hindus.

105. Four-fifths of the population are Hindus, the community preponderating everywhere except in the Mandla district and a few of the Feudatory States. The number and proportion of Hindus in the various natural divisions are shown in the margin. The community has increased during the decade by 16 per cent, a rate of growth slightly less than that of the general population. A belief in the religious superiority of Brahmans, veneration for the cow, and respect for caste-distinction, are the elements of Hinduism which are most generally recognized as fundamental; but each of these has been, or is, rejected by tribes, castes, or sects, whose title to be included among

Division.	Number (in thousands).	Percentage of population.
Nerbudda Valley ...	2,384	84·8
Plateau ...	937	54·8
Maratha Plain ...	5,306	86·0
Chhattisgarh Plain ...	3,773	82·1
Chhota Nagpur ...	405	53·7

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Hindus is not denied. The Kabirpanthis of Chhattisgarh, who number 597,199 souls, ignore caste distinctions, and attempt to compromise between Hinduism and Islam. The Satnamis of the same Division, numbering 460,280 adherents, abjure all Hindu gods, ignore the headship of Brahmans, and worship without idols the true name (*satnam*) of one Supreme God. Hindus who eat beef number about two and a half millions, though this practice is not necessarily synonymous with lack of reverence for the cow, particularly among Chamars and Basors. Broadly speaking, however, the three tests given above seem to be fairly representative, the last being the most important. What is generally taken to constitute a Hindu in the Central Provinces is to be a member of any caste other than the Dravidian tribes, who are still distinguished as not having completely entered the caste system. The non-religious character of Hinduism is sufficiently evident from the fact that the unclean castes, who number one quarter of the total Hindu population, are denied access to Hindu temples, while some of the tribes, as, for instance, Gonds and Kols, are admitted, and others, like Baigas and Korkus, are excluded as unclean.

Mussalmans

106. Of the 585,000 Mussalmans in the Provinces, nearly half belong to Berar, which was for long under the sway of Muhammadan princes, and still forms part of the dominions of the Muhammadan ruler of Hyderabad. In no division, however, does the community number 6 per cent of the population. The districts which have the highest percentage are Nimar (9·8), where Burhanpur was once the capital of the Faruki dynasty, Amraoti (8·3), Akola (8·8), and Buldana (8·2). The rate of increase during the decade was 13 per cent, being highest in the Plateau and Chhota Nagpur Divisions, where the numbers of the Mussalman community are insignificant. The reason for the low rate of increase, which is in contrast to the comparatively high fecundity of the community elsewhere, is partly the fact that a large number of Muhammadans are temporary sojourners who have left their families behind, and partly that some of the conditions which are held to favour extra fecundity in Muhammadans are not so strong in these Provinces as elsewhere. The only two sects of importance are Sunnis and Shiahs, 94 per cent belonging to the former, and 3 per cent to the latter, the remainder giving no sect. The number of members of Hindu castes who have returned their religion as Mussalman, and of others who are admittedly converts, is 83,000, or 14 per cent of the community; but it is probable that more than half the followers of Islam in these Provinces do not belong to any genuine Muhammadan race.

Christians.

107 The Christian community has almost tripled during the decade, the numbers having risen from 27,252 to 73,401, of whom, however, the wholesale conversion of Oraons in Jashpur to the Roman Catholic faith accounts for one-half. Leaving these out of account, the rate of increase of the community is 34 per cent. The numbers of Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians are 7,333, 3,488 and 62,580, respectively. Of the number who returned themselves as Europeans, only 5,383 were born out of India, so that it is probable that the real number of Europeans is somewhat less than that given in the returns. The increase in the number of Europeans is due to the enlargement of the administrative organisation, the addition of a British regiment to the Jubbulpore garrison, and the formation there of a full brigade of artillery. The published reports of the Missions, which are now working in every district and State, show that, except for the Jashpur Oraons, the number of adult converts to Christianity during the decade was small. The increase in the Indian Christian community is due partly to the fact that many orphans who were admitted to the Missions during the famines of 1897 and 1900 were not shown as Christians in 1901, whereas the present returns include practically every inmate of the Missions; and partly to the fact that Indian Christians belong racially to the aboriginal tribes and the lower Hindu castes, which are well known to be specially prolific. The proportion of males to females among Europeans is as 3 to 1. About two-thirds belong to the Anglican Communion, and one-fifth are Roman Catholics. Of Anglo-Indians more than half are Roman Catholics, while one-third belong to the Anglican Communion. Of Indian Christians more than two-thirds are Roman Catholics, one-eleventh are Lutherans, one-fourteenth Methodists, and one-sixteenth Presbyterians, with a small sprinkling of other Protestant denominations.

108. The number of Jains has increased by 5 per cent, which is considerably below the general rate. Apart from the fact that Jains are chiefly members of the trading castes from Bundelkhand and Rajputana, which are not naturally so prolific as the bulk of the population, they look upon themselves as foreigners and exiles and keep closely in touch with their native country, which they frequently visit, and to which they often send their families. They are most numerous in the Saugor Damoh and Jubbulpore districts, where a number of them have settled down in villages and taken to cultivation. The large majority, however, settle in towns and trade in money, grain and cloth. They are divided into two sects, the Digambars and Swetambars, the former worshipping their gods naked. There is also a small sect of Samaiyas, who do not worship idols, but, like Sikhs, only the books of their faith. The tendency among Jains of recent years has been to draw together and dissociate themselves from Hindu ceremonies and worship The Jain religion, however, does not attract converts, and this sectarian revival has lost it some of its members, as, for instance, the Kasars of Akola and the Jain Kalars The decade has also seen the beginning of an effort towards social unity and educational enterprise, as evidenced by the establishment of Jain boarding-houses and schools, the Jain Historical Society, and Sabhas to combat inter-sect prejudices, especially with regard to intermarriage. Jains.

109. Of minor religions, the only one which deserves special notice is the Arya Samaj. The first Samaj was started in Jubbulpore by a Punjabi Assistant Engineer 30 years ago. The membership recorded at subsequent censuses have been 256, 402 and 974, the latter figure representing the membership of 45 Samajes. The Central Samaj is at Narsinghpur; it maintains an orphanage with 30 inmates, and sends out preachers to propagate the cause of the Samaj. The establishment of a Gurukul or Seminary is said to be under contemplation. But the progress of the Samaj is slow, and the spirit which animates the Samajes of the United Provinces and the Punjab is wanting. Members adhere to caste, and admissions of persons belonging to non-Hindu religions or to the untouchable castes are not known to have occurred, as is the case in Northern India after a ceremony of purification. Aryas.

110. In the India Census Report of 1901 the situation in the Central Provinces after the famine years was summed up as follows:—

"It thus appears that the whole loss of population has occurred amongst people who had passed the reproductive time of life or who had not yet reached it. It may therefore be concluded with confidence that the recuperation will be rapid, and that, in the absence of any fresh check on the growth of population, the losses of the last decade will have been repaired before the time comes for taking the next census, though their effect will be felt in a diminished rate of growth later on, when those who are now young children reach maturity." Age.

This forecast has been entirely substantiated. Taking the Central Provinces as a whole, and confining attention to the male population, whose age record is probably more accurate than that of females, we find that the proportion at each age period in 1911 and 1901 was as shown in the marginal statement. The large increase in the period 0—5 corresponds to the high birth-rate in the last half of the decade (*vide* paragraph 100 above). The period 5—10 contains those who were born in the first five years of the decade, when the low birth-rate succeeding the famine of 1900 neutralized the higher rates of the following years. The next two periods (10—20) contain the survivors of the infants and children who were exposed to the ravages of the famine years, and it is these years which exhibit the most marked decrease, and balance by their depletion the gains at each end of the scale. The increase of 17·9 per cent of total population at the present census consists of a gain of 33·5 per cent in children under 10 years of age, a loss of 11·3

Age.	Percentage of total population in 1911	Percentage of total population in 1901
0— 5 ...	15·7	12·3
5—10 ...	13·8	13·8
10—15 ...	10·1	13·2
15—20 ...	6·8	8·2
20—40 ...	32·9	32·8
40—60 ...	16·1	16·1
60—over ...	4·6	3·6
Mean age ...	24·18 years.	24·11 years.

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per cent at the ages between 10 and 15, a gain of about 15 per cent at each of the age periods 15—40 and 40—60, and a gain of 42 per cent in those above 60, the general effect being to restore the age distribution to a condition somewhat similar to that of 1881. But there is one legacy of the famines which will shortly begin to have its effect. The loss in the age period between 10 and 15, which is the result of the abnormal infant mortality at the end of the previous decade, has depleted the ranks of those who are just now entering, or about to enter, the reproductive age. There has been nothing hitherto to interfere with the first natural reaction on the birth-rate due to prosperity succeeding catastrophe. The second reaction must now be expected, and, as the want of potential parents in the early reproductive age begins to be felt, the proportionate birth-rate must gradually decline.

111. The marginal table illustrates the greater fecundity of the lower castes and the Dravidian tribes, and the greater longevity of the higher castes. It is possible that this longevity is due to the Aryan strain, but it has to be remembered that the aboriginal tribes and Dravidian and semi-Dravidian castes usually inhabit the least healthy parts of the Provinces, and in the hilly and wooded country they are exposed to the full force of malaria and other endemic diseases. Though their superior fecundity may counteract the effect of a high infant death-rate, there is nothing to neutralize the loss at the other end of life.

Castes.	Percentage aged	
	0—15	40—over
The Twice-born ..	35·1	22·4
Higher Artisans ...	37·2	22·2
Higher Cultivators ...	38·7	22·1
Serving Castes ...	39·8	19·9
Lower Artisans ...	40·4	20·4
Untouchables ...	40·2	20·4
Dravidians ...	41·7	19·5

Sex.

112. The number of females per 1,000 males has dropped from 1,019 in 1901 to 1,008 in 1911, as against a figure of 954 for the whole of India. The marginal statement compares the proportion of females in the census population with the proportion of births and deaths as recorded in the vital statistics. There has been a slight increase in the proportionate female birth-rate from 941 per thousand male births in 1891—1900 to 954 in the past decade, but this is overbalanced by a large increase in the proportional female death-rate, which was 917 in the past decade against the previous figure of 853. This latter increase is due to a cessation of those particular causes which are considered to favour male mortality, *viz.*, famine, scarcity and physical hardship. Women are in defect in the north and west, but are still in excess in most of the less advanced parts, where the inhabitants are largely Dravidian. An exception is formed by the Chhota Nagpur States, where the proportion of females at birth is above that of other Divisions, and the subsequent deficiency appears to be due to a disappearance of women from the age periods after puberty, for which no satisfactory explanation is forthcoming. The Census Superintendent notices several causes which contribute to the higher proportion of males in the more advanced parts. In the first place the excess of the male over the female birth-rate is appreciably greater in those parts than it is elsewhere. This is concomitant with a low birth-rate of both sexes, and there is some ground for supposing that first-born children in particular, and the earlier children of a family in general, are more usually males, and that the proportion of females increases with the size of the family. Further, there are special reasons for a comparatively high female death-rate at various ages among the more advanced Hindu castes. The practice of female infanticide, if it ever existed among the higher castes of the Provinces, has certainly long since died out, but there is no doubt that the greater value set on male children, especially among those castes, is accompanied by some neglect of female children, which reacts prejudicially on the infant death-rate. Among persons who have reached the child-bearing age, the ordinary dangers of child-birth increase in any case as we ascend the social scale;

Natural Division.	Number of females per 1,000 males in respect of		
	Actual population.	Births.	Deaths.
Nerbudda Valley ...	981	948	928
Plateau ...	1,025	957	901
Maratha Plain ...	900	950	924
Chhattisgarh Plain ..	1,051	956	893
Chhot Nagpur ...	971	Not known.	

and this increase is intensified by the prevalence among the higher castes of the custom of infant marriage. It is probable that among those castes the age of regular cohabitation begins considerably earlier than is the case among aborigines and the lower castes, who postpone marriage till after puberty, and the risks run by their delicately nurtured women are proportionately enhanced, without any compensation in the form of more skilled attendance at child-birth.

113. The proportion of each sex in the three civil conditions is shown in the margin. The large increase in the proportion of both sexes married is common to all ages between 5 and 60, and emphasizes in a marked degree the difference between the condition of society immediately after a series of great calamities and after years of almost unbroken prosperity. At the earlier age periods the proportion of married females is considerably greater than that of married men, the percentage of married women between the age of 10—15 being 54, against 21 in the case of men, while in the age-period 15—20 the similar figures are 88 against 47. At the later ages the greater longevity of women, combined with the restrictions placed on widow remarriage, reverses the proportion. Of persons between 40—60, 87 per cent of males and 52 per cent of females are married, while among those over 60 the proportion of married persons is 71 per cent of males, and 14 per cent of females. Local variations depend largely on the comparative influence of the different religions in the natural divisions. While among Animists hardly one-tenth of the males below 15 years are married, the ratio among Hindus is almost one-third. The difference in the case of females is equally conspicuous, for whereas 61 per cent of the Hindu girls between 10 and 15 are married, the proportion among Animists is only 24 per cent. At 15—20 the differences are still large, but at the later ages the universality of marriage among all classes equalizes the proportion. Muhammadans marry later than Hindus, but earlier than Animists, and in parts of Berar some of the lower castes of Muhammadans are taking to the Hindu custom of infant marriage. The proportion of their married males and females is very similar to that of Animists. The conspicuously large number of Muhammadan widows, especially at the later age periods, hardly seems to find sufficient explanation in the reluctance, for sentimental reasons, of Muhammadan widows of good houses to remarry, and in the probability that a large proportion of prostitutes returned themselves as widows. The community contains a large excess of unmarried males over females between the ages of 10 and 50, and in the absence of any prohibition against widow remarriage it might have been expected that this surplus age of potential husbands would tend to reduce the number of widows who remain single below the normal.

Civil condition.

Condition.	Proportion per 1,000 of of sex in 1911	1901
Male.		
Unmarried ...	442	451
Married ...	513	488
Widowed ...	45	61
Female.		
Unmarried ...	325	328
Married ...	522	405
Widowed ...	153	177

114. At the census of 1901 the Upper Primary Examination, or an equivalent amount of knowledge, formed the standard of literacy. At the recent census orders were issued that a person should be regarded as literate if he could write a letter to a friend and read the answer to it. The greater discretion allowed to the enumerating staff has probably resulted in a somewhat wider application of the term literacy than on previous occasions. The number of literates returned was 521,187, or 33 per mille, the smallness of the proportion as compared with other parts of India being due to the large number of aborigines and low castes. Of males 62 per mille were literate, and of females 3 per mille. In 1901 the corresponding figures were 60 and 2, and in 1891, 46 and 1. Of the natural divisions, the Nerbudda Valley with 54 per mille shows the highest proportion, the Maratha Plain showing

Literacy.

Province.	Number of literates per mille.
Bengal ...	77
Madras ...	75
Bombay ...	66
United Provinces ..	34
Central Provinces ...	33

DETAILS OF LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

a proportion of 39, the Plateau 25, the Chhattisgarh Plain 18, and the Chhota Nagpur States 6. The districts with the largest proportion are Jubbulpore (60), Hoshangabad and Nimar (56), Nagpur (54), and Amraoti (51). The proportions of literates in the various religious communities are shown in the margin. If the 36,000 newly converted Oraons of Jashpur, who are nearly all illiterate, be omitted, the proportion of Indian Christians who are literate is 325. Of Hindu castes the most literate are the Khatris (467), Parbhus (421), Kayasths (325), Brahmans (242), Komtis (220) and Karans (215). Literacy is also high among the Bania castes (245), both Hindu and Jain, and Bohras (324). Among artisan castes the Tameras (182), Kasars (155), Kunderas (127), Sunars (126) and Panchals (122) are the best educated; while among cultivating castes the Marathas have 75 literates per mille, the Kurmis 35, the Kunbis 31 and the Lodhis 23. The cultivating classes have little stimulus to keep up their education after leaving school, and many who go through the primary schools in their youth relapse into complete illiteracy at a later age. Three per thousand of the population are returned as literate in English, the largest proportion being among Parbhus (188), Khatris (115) and Brahmans (65).

Community.	Literates per mille.	
	In Vernacular.	In English.
European and Anglo-Indian.	890	8·5
Indian-Christian ...	138	4·3
Jain ...	261	8
Musalman ...	91	8
Hindu ...	32	2
Animist ...	2	·02

115. The marginal statement of institutions and scholars illustrates clearly the marked spread of education during the decade. The number of pupils in colleges has doubled; in secondary schools the number of boys has multiplied fourfold, and of girls eightfold; and in primary schools the boy scholars have increased by 52 per cent and the girls by 55 per cent. At the same time educational institutions of all kinds have increased by 13 per cent. The number of square miles per school in each of the natural divisions is shown in the margin. At the census of 1901 each school had to serve on an average 41 square miles. Amraoti has one school for 16·3 square miles, Jubbulpore one for 18·2, Narsinghpur one for 18·8, and Akola one for 19·7. The Educational budget has increased from Rs. 13½ lakhs in 1891 and Rs. 14½ lakhs in 1901 to Rs. 30¾ lakhs in 1911, representing about Re. 1-4-0 for every person of school-going age.

Year.	Number of	
	Institutions.	Scholars.
1891	3,129	161,840
1901	3,430	174,091
1911	3,865	297,620

Division.	Square miles per school.
Provinces	33·8
Nerbudda Valley	25·0
Plateau	59·4
Maratha Plain	29·8
Chhattisgarh Plain	60·3

Language.

116. The linguistic test adopted at the census was the language which each person ordinarily used in his own home, main languages only being asked for, and no special efforts being made to record dialects. The three principal vernaculars of the Province are Hindi, Marathi and Gondi, which are spoken by 94 per cent of the population, Hindi claiming 56 per cent, Marathi 31 per cent and Gondi 7 per cent. The first two are Aryan languages, spoken by the Hindu and Mussalman population, and by a considerable proportion of Animists who have either abandoned or lost their own language by long intercourse with Hindus. The third language is non-Aryan, and at some period would seem to have been the dominant language in the Province. The Aryan ascendancy displaced it and drove it to the more inaccessible parts of the country, and the contrast on a map of the country between the scattered highlands and hills on the one hand and the intervening plains on the other would now depict fairly accurately the respective spheres of the non-Aryan and Aryan tongues. Hindi and

Marathi divide the Province between them. The former, which entered by the north from the United Provinces and Central India, occupies the Jubbulpore, Nerbudda and Chhattisgarh Divisions, stretching east to the borders of the Oriya country. Marathi, brought in from Bombay, dominates the Berar and Nagpur Divisions and spreads south to the borders of Madras and Hyderabad. The two languages meet in the Balaghat and Chhindwara districts, of which the northern halves speak Hindi and the southern Marathi. The *lingua franca* of the Provinces is, however, Hindi, and in the Maratha districts there is a larger proportion of Hindi speakers than there is of Marathi speakers in Hindi districts. Of the total increase of 2½ millions in the population, about three-fifths is of Hindi-speaking people.

Hindi.

117. Hindi has three main divisions, Eastern Hindi Western Hindi, and Rajasthani, each of which is almost a distinct language. The marginal table shows the distribution of the total Hindi population between each branch. Eastern Hindi, which includes Baghelkhandi and Chhattisgarhi, is spoken in the districts adjoining Baghelkhand, *viz.*, Jubbulpore and Mandla, in the Wainganga valley, where the Ponwars, a degraded tribe of Rajputs who settled there long ago, have retained their original speech, and in the Chhattisgarh districts and the adjoining Feudatory States. Western Hindi, which includes Bundelkhandi and Urdu, is spoken in the districts adjoining Bundelkhand, *viz.*, Saugor, Damoh, Narsinghpur, and Hoshangabad, in Chhindwara, and, generally, in all districts where the Muhammadan community is found. The number of Urdu speakers is 292,485, of whom 213,818 are to be found in Berar, as compared with a Muhammadan population for the Division of 238,665. In the British districts of the Central Provinces the number of Urdu speakers is only 77,078, against a Muhammadan population of 326,244. The divergence between the figures is due to the fact that many Hindu converts to Islam retain their original language, while a large number of uneducated Muhammadans speak almost exactly the same dialect as their Hindi neighbours, and would be unlikely to return their language as Urdu. Rajasthani, a hybrid between Hindi and Gujarati, is chiefly spoken by the people of Nimar and by Marwaris, and a few other castes like Bhoyars who have immigrated from the direction of Malwa. The characteristics of the various Hindi dialects are fully dealt with in the Linguistic Survey of India. The general script of Hindi is the Nagari character.

Dialect.	Number (000's omitted).	Percentage of total.
Total Hindi ...	8,445	
Eastern Hindi ...	5,521	65
Western Hindi ...	2,342	28
Rajasthani ...	582	7

Marathi.

118. The number of Marathi speakers was 5,012,099, an increase 592,394, while the increase in the Marathi-speaking districts was 690,198. In Saugor and Jubbulpore, where a large number of immigrants from Poona settled at the time when those places were seats of the Maratha Government, the number of Marathi speakers is diminishing as their descendants adopt the prevailing Hindi. The only important dialect of Marathi is Halbi, which is spoken by 141,969 persons, practically all in the Bastar State. It is a mixture of the Hindi, Oriya, and Marathi languages which surround the State, and its local colour varies according to the dominant language of these three. The scripts of Marathi are Balbodh, which is the same as Nagari, and Modi, which is much used as a current hand.

Gondi.

119. Gondi is spoken by 1,167,015 persons, of whom one-fifth live in the Bastar State, while Chhindwara, Betul and Seoni each return over a lakh. Though Gonds are found in every district, the language has become practically extinct in some, notably in Saugor and Damoh, and to a lesser degree in Narsinghpur and Bilaspur. The only real dialect of Gondi is Parja, which is the language of 15,110 persons in Bastar. Gondi has no script and no literature. Even in their days of ascendency, the Gonds made no effort to develop or perpetuate their language; they kept few records, and allowed their Hindu ministers to write what was necessary in their own language. The only authentic record of the times of the Gond Kings which has been discovered, is an eulogy of the Mandla Kings inscribed on a stone in Ramnagar, and composed in Sanskrit by a Brahman.

Minor vernaculars.

120. The numbers of persons who speak some of the more important minor vernaculars are shown in the margin. Though the greater part of the Oriya country was transferred to Bengal in 1905, certain of the zamindaris of the Raipur and Bilaspur districts, and the States of Raigarh, Sarangarh, and the eastern portions of Bastar, Jashpur, and Udaipur contain a proportion of Oriya speakers. Telugu is chiefly spoken in the Sironcha tahsil of the Chanda district, which is a part of the Telangana country, and in the southern portions of the Yeotmal district and the Bastar State. Both Oriya and Telugu have their own scripts, the letters being rounded. Korku and Kuruk are tribal languages, the former being spoken in the western part of the Provinces, *viz.*, Hoshangabad, Nimar, Betul, Chhindwara and the Melghat, and the latter in the Jashpur and Sirguja States in the east. Practically all those who are recorded as speaking a Gipsy dialect are Banjaras, the nomadic pack-bullock traders who still carry on their traditional occupation along those trade-routes which have not yet been reached by rail. They are specially numerous in Berar, Raipur and Bastar. Gujarati, with its sub-dialect Bhili, which was formerly classed under Hindi, is chiefly spoken in Nimar, the home of most of the Bhils of these Provinces, and in the Berar districts. The Census Report gives a number of facts to show the gradual displacement of non-Aryan by Aryan languages, a process which would have been much more rapid but for the inaccessibility and isolation of the tracts where the aboriginal dialects are in use.

Vernacular.	Number.
1. Oriya	302,635
2. Telugu	140,413
3. Korku	134,829
4. Gipsy	113,410
5. Kuruk (Oraon)	103,764
6. Gujarati	60,388

Infirmities.

121. The total number of infirm persons in the Province is 50,403. The marginal statement shows the number per 10,000 of the population suffering from each infirmity, as compared with the number at previous censuses. From 1881 to 1901 there was a steady decrease in the number of persons recorded as afflicted under each head. In the former year, however, the instructions were interpreted so liberally as to include a number of persons not strictly coming within the definition, and in the latter year the relatively high mortality of the afflicted during the famines must have been a considerable factor in reducing the total. The increase shown during the past decade by all infirmities, except leprosy, is a concomitant of the return of prosperity, when charity is abundant, and the conditions of life become easier for the afflicted. At the same time it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that modern sanitary and curative science has hitherto made no impression on the number of the permanently infirm.

Infirmity.	Number per 10,000 in			
	1911	1901	1891	1881
Insanity ...	1·5	1·2	1·6	2·3
Deaf-mutism ...	4·6	4·3	4·4	6·1
Blindness ...	20·0	17·5	17·8	25·3
Leprosy ...	4·5	5·4	6·5	7·1

Insanity.

122. The total number of insane persons is 2,466, of whom 1,551 are males. The Province contains a smaller number of insane persons than any of the larger Provinces of India—a fact largely due to the backward character of the majority of its inhabitants. The marginal statement illustrates the difference in the number of the insane between India and Western countries, which is generally ascribed to the intemperate habits of the labouring classes in the West, and to the greater mental and nervous strain of modern civilized life. As elsewhere, insanity in the Central Provinces is more common among males than females, a fact usually explained with reference to the greater metabolism of the male constitution. Part of the difference may also be attributed to the greater chances of concealment

	Number of insanes per 10,000 of population.
Bengal	4·3
Bombay	2·9
Madras	2·0
United Provinces	1·7
Central Provinces	1·5
Hungary	16·1
United States	32·2
England and Wales ...	33·5

in the case of women than of men, especially among the higher castes, among whom insanity is most prevalent. The number of deaf-mutes is 7,502, of whom 4,348 are males. Deaf-mutism is usually congenital, and the instructions that only congenital cases should be recorded appear to have been observed with some accuracy. Owing to the impossibility of distinguishing cretinism in the records from other forms of insanity, the figures furnish no test of the well-known connection between deaf-mutism and cretinism. They lend no support to the theory that the offspring of cousin marriages are peculiarly liable to be deaf-mutes. Of the castes among whom deaf-mutism is most common, the Banyas, Bhoyars, Chadars and Kirars avoid cousin marriage, and it is not usual among Sonars. On the other hand, cousin marriage is common among Muhammadans and aborigines, who have a low proportion of deaf-mutes. **Deaf-mutism.**

123. The number of blind people recorded was 33,128, of whom 13,851 were males, and it is probable that this number was fairly accurate. Blindness is more common in the Central Provinces, as may be seen from the marginal table, than in most other parts of India. There is little correlation, as in western countries, between the prevalence of small-pox and blindness. More important factors are ophthalmia and cataract, brought on by exposure to glare and the smoky atmosphere of ill-ventilated houses. The infirmity is most common in the arid and treeless tracts of the Chhattisgarh rice-country, and in the northern districts, where the fierce sun of the hot weather is combined with longer and severer spells of cold during the winter months, during which the people huddle indoors for warmth over smoky fires. The fact that women spend more of their time in the house than men is one of the reasons given for the greater prevalence of blindness among women, especially old women. Others are that they are less able to bear the glare and dust, and that they are less willing to resort to hospital. The number of lepers is 7,307, of whom 4,633 are males. The disease is commonest in the Chhattisgarh and Maratha Plains and in the Bastar State, owing probably to the insanitary habits of the lower classes who inhabit these tracts. The reasons assigned for the greater prevalence of leprosy among men are concealment on the part of the women, and greater mortality among female lepers, who are not so ready as men to solicit charity by a public display of the disease. **Blindness.** **Leprosy.**

	Number per 10,000 of the population.
Punjab	25·4
Central Provinces	20·6
Bombay	14·4
Madras	8·1
Bengal	7·0
United Provinces	5·5
England and Wales	8·0
Norway	12·8

124. The number of castes enumerated at the census was 384, against 213 in 1901, the increase being due to the introduction of new castes with the addition to the Province of the Chhota Nagpur States and Berar, to the treatment as distinct groups of certain castes which were amalgamated under one head in 1901, and in a few cases to the distinction of castes having identical occupations but different origins. The classification of castes according to their social status has been abandoned at the present census, and they are now classified under occupational groups, as in 1891, the number of groups being 37. It is impossible here to do more than notice some of the principal groups and their chief members. The percentages of increase or decrease of individual castes are in many cases so obscured by territorial changes, accretion from lower castes, and differences in classification, that any deductions made from them as to the comparative fecundity of various castes are of little value. **Castes.**

DETAILS OF LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

Forest and hill tribes.

125. The largest group is that of the forest and hill tribes, who number 3,689,807 persons, or 23 per cent of the total population. The group includes 43 tribes, of which the Gonds number 2,333,893, or 63 per cent. The numbers of the principal tribes are shown in the margin. Before the advent of the Aryans almost the whole of the Province is believed to have been inhabited by the Gonds, and there is not a single district where they are not found in large numbers. Numerous sub-tribes have branched off from them, such as the Agarias (iron-smelters), Bhimmas (dancers and singers), and Dholis (makers of grain-baskets); and in the south of the Provinces the Murias, Marias, Bhatras, Parjas and Koyas are also in a state of semi-independent development. The Kawars live in Bilaspur, where eight of the zamindars belong to the tribe, and in the Chota Nagpur States. The Korkus inhabit the hilly tracts of Nimar, Hoshangabad, Chhindwara and Amraoti. They speak a Kolarian language, and are believed to be the same as the Korwas of Chhota Nagpur. The Halbas are chiefly found in the Bastar and Kanker States, but are spread over most of the Marathi-speaking districts, where they have taken up weaving and are being merged in the Koshti caste. The Korwas are a wild forest people, living in isolated huts on the tops of mountains in the Sirguja and Jashpur States. The Andhs, who are found in Berar, on the borders of Hyderabad, are relics of the Andhras who dominated the country round the Godavari from sea to sea in the third century A. D. They still remember that they were once a ruling race, and on that ground once objected to being taxed like other raiyats. Baigas, like Gonds, are not found outside the Province. They live in the Eastern Satpuras, and, being the original inhabitants, act as priests of the local deities, their name having become in many localities synonymous with priest. The Bhils, who are found in Nimar, were formerly hill-robbers, and were largely recruited for the Musalman armies, a number of them changing their religion but not their superstitions. The converts, who are known as Tadvis, resemble other Bhils in their manners and customs, but do not marry outside their own community.

Tribe.	Number (000's omitted).
Gond	2,333
Kawar	229
Korku	152
Pardhan	118
Halba	100
Oraon	83
Kol	82
Saonr	74
Binjhwar	58
Andh	52
Bhumia	51
Nagasia	44
Koli	36
Korwa	34
Baiga	30
Bhil	27
Bhuinhar	27
Kolam	24

Cultivators.

126. The cultivating group numbers 26 castes and 3,053,859 persons, or 19 per cent of the population, the principal caste being the Kunbis, the cultivators of the Maratha districts. Though a prolific caste, they have only increased 6 per cent during the decade, owing to the tendency of the Deshmukh and other higher groups to call themselves Marathas. The corresponding Hindustani caste is that of the Kurmis, who live in Chhattisgarh and the Jubbulpore and Hoshangabad districts. The Malis, whose traditional occupation is flower-growing, but most of whom grow cereals as well, include the Marars of the south, who grow vegetables and condiments and correspond to the Kachhis of the north. Both these groups are probably offshoots of the Malis, but the latter have long since crystallised into a separate caste, whereas the former are in a state of transition. The Lodhis, Bhoyars and Kirars are of Rajput origin, as also are the Dangis who are descendants of Rajput alliances with women of other castes. The Barais are pan-growers. The Koltas are the principal cultivators of Orissa, and are found in Raipur and Bilaspur. Like the Manas, the origin of the Kohlis is obscure. They are good irrigationists, and the largest tanks in Bhandara and Chanda are the outcome of their engineering skill.

	Number (000's omitted)
Kunbi	1,356
Mali	503
Lodhi	313
Kurmi	302
Kachhi	110
Barai	50
Bhoyar	58
Mana	40
Kirar	47
Kolta	30
Agharia	27
Kohli	25
Dangi	24

127. In the weaving, carding and dyeing group there are 21 castes, and 1,927,601 persons, or 12 per cent of the population. The largest caste is that of the Mahars, who are found all over the Province, but are most numerous in the Maratha country. Only about 11 per cent of the caste still pursues the traditional calling, and some sub-castes who have taken to other callings claim distinction from the ordinary Mahars. Thus, the Mirgans of Bastar have taken to grain and salt selling, and the Bakharias have become a separate group of saises. These distinctions are not, however, noticed by the outsider, who regards all the caste as untouchables. The Mahars are prolific, and have increased by 21 per cent. The Pankhas are Chhattisgarh weavers, and are mostly Kabirpanthis. They are closely allied to the Gandas, who inhabit the same tract. The Koshtis of the Nagpur Division enjoy a more respectable position than other weaving castes, except the small castes of Koskatis and Salis, who hold a still higher status from the fact that they work in silk, and who aspire to wear the sacred thread allowed only to high-caste persons.

	Number (000's omitted).
Mahar (Mehra)	1,165
Panka	214
Koshti	153
Ganda	151
Balahi	52
Bahua	48
Katia	41
Kori	39

128. The fourth largest group, graziers and dairymen, numbers 13 castes and 1,834,945 persons, or 7 per cent of the population. In spite of disintegration, which has led to the formation of distinct groups like Gowaris and others, the Ahirs, known in the Maratha country as Gaolis, come next in point of numbers to Gonds, Kunbis, Mahars and Chamars. There are traditions of an Ahir or Gaoli Kingdom, showing that the caste was once powerful as well as numerous. Ahirs are found all over the Province, especially in Chhattisgarh, where they are known as Rawats, and engage in domestic service, like Dhimars elsewhere. The Gowaris, who in 1901 were treated as a sub-caste of Ahirs, chiefly inhabit the Nagpur Division. They are of Maratha extraction and have intermixed with the Gonds. The Dhangars and Gadarias herd sheep and goats, the former in the Maratha districts, the latter in the north, especially in the Jubbulpore Division. The Gujars are a pastoral caste who have come from Central India, and inhabit Hoshangabad and Nimar..

Graziers and dairymen.

	Number (000's omitted).
Ahir	738
Gowari	157
Dhangar	96
Gujar	55
Gadaria	40

129. The priestly group, which forms 3 per cent of the population, comprises 22 castes and 586,547 persons, of whom 4 out of 5 are Brahmans. Brahmans belong according to their origin either to the Panch Gaut or the Panch Dravida class, those of the north being mostly Gaurs, and those of the Maratha districts Dravidas. The Brahmans are an intelligent and well-educated class, and engage in almost all vocations which are not considered degrading. They hold most of the posts in Government service, and many of them are religious mendicants, begging to a Brahman conveying no social degradation. They are not prolific, especially in the north, their rate of increase being only 5 per cent. Gosains are priests of Mahadeo, and Bairagis are devotees of Vishnu. Both castes were originally celibate, but most of them have now married, and many have settled as cultivators or taken to some lucrative profession, some families having even attained the status of Feudatory Chiefs.

"Priests" and devotees.

	Number (000's omitted).
Brahman	445
Gosain	42
Bairagi	38

130. The landholding class numbers 3 castes and 535,160 persons, or 3 per cent of the population. The principal caste is that of the Rajputs, whose numbers, however, are probably swollen by the tendency of lower castes to pass themselves off as Kshatriyas. Instances of this tendency are given in the Census Report, and the Superintendent estimates

Landholders.

	Number (000's omitted).
Rajput	441
Maratha	93

DETAILS OF LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

that, after eliminating doubtful aspirants to Rajput rank, the number of persons actually belonging to the Kshatriya or military caste is only about 263,000. Seventy eight Rajput septs were returned, the more important ones being those given in the margin. A few true Ponwars are found in Saugor, Hoshangabad, and Nimar, which formed part of the Malwa kingdom once ruled by the kings of this sept. The Ponwars of the Wainganga Valley, like the Chauhans and the Rathors, are a debased endogamous group. The number of real Raghubansis and Jadams is equally scarce. The Province contains remnants of some historic Rajput tribes now rarely found. Such are the Hunas, descendants of the Huns who overran Europe; the Chhindas, who were once dominant in Bastar and Hyderabad; and the Kalachuris, whose dynasty once ruled at Tewar, near Jubbulpore, and had its own era. The Marathas are probably Kunbis in origin. The *Satghranas*, the seven families to which the Bhonslas of Nagpur belong, are the cream of the Marathas. These families marry among themselves. Like Rajputs, the caste has received large accessions from the ranks of inferior castes.

	Number (000's omitted).
Ponwar	151
Raghubansi	24
Jadam	22
Bais	16
Chauhan	13
Rathor	10

131. Details of the remaining principal castes and their occupations are given in the margin. Chamars are most numerous in the Chhattisgarh Division, where many villages contain none but Chamars from the landlord down. In that Division the majority of Chamars are cultivators, the Satnami sect, who form 70 per cent of their number, having entirely given up leather-working. In spite of the loss of the Dohors of Berar, who claim to be a distinct group, the Chamars have increased by 20 per cent. Telis have also taken largely to agriculture, especially in Chhattisgarh, and less than one-tenth of them follow the traditional occupation. In Mandla the Rathor Telis claim to belong to the Rajput caste, some of whose manners and customs they have adopted. Dhimars perform all occupations connected with water, as boatmen, water-nut and melon growers and water-carriers. In the last capacity they are brought into domestic service, where they clean pots and utensils, and carry palkis and litters. Banyas are really made up of several castes, the most important being Parwars, who are mostly Jains, and Agarwals and Mahesris, who are mostly Hindus. Under the present Excise system, many Kalars have lost their traditional occupation, and have taken to money-lending, cultivation, and contract work. Owing to the lucrative nature of its profession, the caste has absorbed into itself in the past numerous enterprising persons from other castes. Banjaras have increased by 28 per cent, and more than half of them have now taken to agriculture. The earlier agriculturists among them have formed a distinct caste known as Wanjari, which disclaims connection with the parent caste. On the other hand, Barhais, whose calling is in an extremely flourishing condition, show little tendency to desert their traditional occupation.

Caste.	Traditional occupation.	Number in caste (000's omitted).
Chamar ...	Leather-workers ...	901
Teli ...	Oil-pressers ...	869
Dhimar ..	Fishermen ...	283
Banya ...	Traders ...	199
Kalar ...	Distillers ...	195
Lohar ..	Blacksmiths ...	181
Dhobi ..	Washermen ...	165
Nai ..	Barbers ...	148
Banjara ...	Pack-carriers ...	135
Kumhar ..	Potters ..	118
Barhai ...	Carpenters ...	108

Occupation.

132. The essential features of the general distribution of the population by occupations have not altered materially since 1901. The percentage engaged in the various main occupations is shown in the margin. Agriculture occupies the largest percentage of the population in the least developed portions of the Province, *viz.*, the Chhota Nagpur States (83·8), the Chhattisgarh Plain (82·4), and the Plateau (78·6). Industries, commerce, and the professions flourish most in the Nerbudda Valley and

Occupation.	Number.	Percentage of total.
Agriculture	12,104	75·5
Industry (including mining)	1,643	10·2
Commerce ...	813	5·1
Professions	244	1·5
Various ...	1,236	7·7

the Maratha Plain, and especially in districts such as Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Amraoti, Hoshangabad, and Saugor, which contain a high proportion of urban population. In every 100 persons, the proportion of dependants to actual workers in all occupations is 41 to 59. It is highest in occupations like commerce and the professions, which are followed by the more advanced classes of society whose women take no part in their husband's occupation, and lowest under agriculture. The northern castes as a general rule exact less active work from their women-folk than the southern. Among persons returned as actual workers, for every 100 males there were 81 females, the lowest proportion being in the districts of Amraoti (63), Hoshangabad (67), and Akola (68). In agriculture more than half the labouring population is female, and female labour is specially important in spade cultivation, the growing of vegetables, fruit and flowers. As grain-grinders and parchers women practically have the monopoly, and as sellers of wood, fuel, and fodder, as also in basket-making, they considerably outnumber the men. Other occupations in which they take a considerable part are the working and dyeing of cloths, the textile industries, and the selling of bangles, pottery, vegetables, *pan*, and tobacco.

133. The marginal table illustrates what we should expect to find as the distribution of occupations in an ordinary village of 1,000 inhabitants under the communal system. The carpenter, black-smith, washerman, barber, potter and sometimes leather-worker still exist as village servants with recognized duties and remunerations; but the strength of the system is gradually weakening with the opening up of communications, the tendency of industry to gravitate to the towns, and the consequent decline of village industries.

Occupation.	No.	Occupation.	No.
Rent-receivers ...	8	Washermen ...	5
Cultivators ..	466	Leathe -workers ...	8
Labourers and farm servants.	276	Basket-makers ...	6
		Tailors ..	4
Herdsmen ..	25	Scavengers ...	2
Spinners and weavers.	22	Potters ...	5
		Sweetmeat-sellers .	10
Goldsmiths ...	5	Money-lenders and grain-dealers.	10
Blacksmiths ...	6		
Fishermen ...	8	Various ...	128
Barbers ...	6		

Agriculture.

134. The number of agriculturists has increased by 26 per cent, farm labourers having increased by 15 per cent, and actual cultivators by 47 per cent. What remains of the increase beyond the natural growth of the population is due partly to agricultural depression in 1901, and partly to the great increase in the area commanded by stable irrigation. Only 129,911 persons were returned as rent-receivers, a decrease of 80 per cent. The decrease is due to the fact that malguzars whose profits come chiefly from the cultivation of their home-farm returned themselves as cultivators. The incidence of land under cultivation per cultivator is 4 acres. Of the actual workers whose principal means of livelihood are non-agricultural about 11 per cent returned themselves as partially agriculturists, the percentage being highest in the case of fishing and hunting (28), industries of dress and the toilet (21), and public force (20). On the other hand, 6 per cent of those whose main occupation is agriculture mentioned some non-agricultural pursuit as a subsidiary means of subsistence, which in the case of rent-receivers was usually trade, money-lending or Government service, and in the case of rent-payers was some form of general trade.

Commerce and Industry.

135. The number of persons supported by industries has increased by 8 per cent, the numbers employed under "hides," "wood," and "dress and toilet" having risen by 26, 24, and 16 per cent respectively, and those under "textiles" having fallen by 12 per cent. The decline in the weaving industry can best be illustrated by a reference to the comparative figures of the chief weaving castes. It is true that the percentage of Koshtis who weave has increased from 73 to 80, this caste being remarkably tenacious of their traditional occupation, and weaving a better class of cloth which has not been so greatly affected by mill-made goods as commoner cloths. But among the Mahars, who weave the coarser kinds, the percentage of weavers has declined from 29 to 11, among the Pankas of Chhattisgarh from 27 to 13, and among the Balahis of the Nerbudda Valley from 45 to 6. For a variety of reasons, which are explained in the Census Report, comparisons between the figures

DETAILS OF LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

of the different industries and heads of commerce at one census and at another can only be approximate, and are sometimes of very doubtful value; but the figures indicate that *pari passu* with the decline of village industries a large development of general trade has taken place. The volume of trade has increased since 1904 by nearly one-third, the total of imports and exports combined standing at 55½ million maunds in 1911. Cotton from the western Maratha districts, rice from the Wainganga districts and Chhattisgarh, wheat and oilseeds from the Nerbudda Valley, metal from the Wainganga districts, and stone and lime from the north form the principal exports, while coal, oil, sugar, salt, machinery, railway plant, and all kinds of manufactured articles of luxury and apparel are imported.

8—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

136. The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock, K. C. S. I., I. C. S., held charge of the office of the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, from the commencement of the year to the 25th of January, 1912, when he was appointed an Ordinary Member of the Council of the Governor-General of India. From the 26th January till the 16th February the office was held substantively *pro tempore* by the Hon'ble Mr. H A. Crump, I. C. S., and from the 17th February to the 31st March by the Hon'ble Mr. M. W. Fox-Strangways, C. S. I., I. C. S.

9—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

[Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1911.]

Changes in the Administration.

137. During the year the Feudatory Chief of Makrai and the minor Chief of Nandgaon died, and the son and heir born to the Bastar Raja on the 13th August, 1911, died shortly after its close. The Rani Sahibas of Bastar and Khairagarh also died. Raja Chhatrasal Shah, the only son of the late Feudatory Chief of Makrai, was installed on the *gaddi* at a Durbar held by the Chief Commissioner at Pachmarhi on the 16th October, 1911. The Feudatory Chiefs of Kanker, Surguja, Sarangarh, and Makrai attended the Imperial Durbar at Delhi, and in honour of the occasion the Feudatory Chief of Kanker was given a personal salute of 9 guns, while the Chiefs of Jashpur and Raigarh received as personal distinction the title of Raja Bahadur. The Bastar State has returned to a state of complete tranquillity, and precautions are being taken to remove all causes of unrest by better supervision over the minor State officials and a more considerate forest policy. An investigation of the coal deposits in Korea was taken up, and the report gives great promise of successful development.

Rainfall and crops.

138. The rainfall was excessive in some of the States, and damage was caused to the til and cotton crops. Rice yielded a bumper harvest in Nandgaon, and in other States this crop was generally good.

Trade.

139. Except in Kawardha export trade was as brisk as in the preceding year. In Jashpur and Changbhakhar trade is handicapped for want of good roads. The Ginning Factory of Kawardha has been closed for the last two years owing to the difficulty of procuring a sufficient quantity of cotton, while the one at Rajnandgaon only worked for a portion of the year. Labour was scarce in Sakti and Chhuikhadan. A Japanese hand-loom weaving industry was started in Sarangarh during the year under report.

Condition of the people.

140. The year was a peaceful and prosperous one. Plague broke out at Rajnandgaon at the end of October and the infection was carried into the adjoining villages. Malaria was prevalent in some of the States and caused many deaths in Raigarh. There was an increase in cattle mortality in Surguja and Nandgaon, where foot and mouth disease broke out. The number of vaccinations increased, and in Bastar the figure almost doubled that of the previous year. There was little or no emigration.

Finance.

141. The financial condition of the States was satisfactory. The Khairagarh State was completely cleared of debt. The liabilities of the Korea State, incurred by the late Chief, amount to Rs. 26,000

Land revenue.

142. A satisfactory feature of the year was the ease with which the land revenue demand was realised in most States, and the insignificant number of cases in which resort to any form of coercive process was necessary. In Surguja, however, a large demand still remained to be realised.

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

143. Settlement operations were in progress in Kawardha, two parganas of Khairagarh, and Chhuikhadan, and were completed in the Jagdalpur Tahsil of Bastar and in Udaipur. The period of settlement in the last-named State is fixed for 7 years. Map correction work was done in Raigarh and Sakti, while assessment proposals and rent-rate reports were drawn up and completed for the whole of the Khalsa portion in the Kawardha State. Announcement work began in Udaipur and in 3 groups of the Khairagarh parganas. Such settlements of land revenue as have been announced appear to have been made with discretion and moderation. A special boundary officer is shortly to be appointed to enquire into a number of pending boundary disputes. **Settlement.**

144. There was a considerable fall in reported crime in most of the States, coinciding with a very distinct increase in the general duration of cases disposed of by the courts. Four criminal courts were added and one abolished. **Criminal Law and Justice.**

145. There was a decrease in the number of prisoners in Jail, owing to the release of a number in honour of the Imperial Durbar at Delhi. The health of the prisoners was good. The Jail administration in all States was well conducted. The old Jail building at Khairagarh has been condemned, and proposals for a new one are pending with the Executive Engineer. The estimate for a new Jail at Dharamjaigarh in the Udaipur State has been sanctioned, but the work has not yet commenced. Weaving of various kinds and oil-pressing are the two principal forms of labour imposed. **Jails.**

146. The income from forests was chiefly derived from the sale of timber, lac, and harra. A Naib-Darogah was appointed in the Sarangarh State for the proper supervision of the forest; and the question of forest reserves in the Bastar State was taken under reconsideration. The official sent from the Bastar State to the Balaghat Forest School in the preceding year passed out successfully. In the Sarangarh State there were 80 minor offences, in which 151 persons were involved. **Forests.**

147. Almost all the States have shown an increase in Excise income, chiefly due to competition for the opium and ganja vends. Some smuggling of ganja in small quantities into Sarangarh from the Sambalpur District took place. In Khairagarh there were 8 prosecutions under the Excise Act, in all of which the offenders were convicted. The Excise system was overhauled in 4 States. **Excise.**

148. There was a general rise in the number of pupils and expenditure. The only State which showed a falling off in the number of schools and pupils was Udaipur, where it was found that the number of schools was too far in advance of local opinion. A whole-time Deputy Inspector was appointed for Nandgaon. Two new primary school buildings were constructed in the Kawardha State, and the new building of the English Middle School in the same State was under construction. A High School Scholarship of Rs. 8 per mensem, named "The de Brett Scholarship," was founded in the Kawardha State and awarded to the student who stood first in the High School Scholarship Examination. The proposal to appoint a European Agency Inspector of Schools for the States is still under consideration. The Rajkumar College made steady progress during the year. The health and conduct of the boys were excellent. An officer of the Indian Educational Service was appointed Principal of the College, but the question of the enlargement of the existing buildings is still under consideration. Five of the boys attended the Delhi Durbar, and one of them, the minor Raja of Kalahandi, had the honour of an audience with His Majesty the King-Emperor. **Education.**

149. Four States were under the management of the Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh States Division. Preliminary investigations were made into irrigation works in the Nandgaon State, and considerable sums were spent on the improvement of State buildings. **Public Works.**

10—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

150. The monsoon of 1911 commenced strongly in the first week of June, but weakened after a fortnight. A break of about three weeks was followed by rain in the middle of July, with another break at the close of the month, the **The season.**

result being that the transplantation of rice was delayed; and in the juar-cotton districts much of the kharif sowing had either to be temporarily postponed or else repeated owing to the failure of the seed first sown. In August the rice districts secured heavy rain. The September rains were very unevenly distributed. But October saw heavy rain in the rice districts, which put the staple food-crop in a sure position, and the rest of the Provinces also fared well enough. In Nimar and the Berar Districts the continuance of drought caused damage to autumn crops in the lighter soils, and at the end of the month the first complaint of scarcity of fodder and water was received from Nimar and Buldana. Then followed general and heavy rain at the end of November, which strengthened the prospects of a good rabi crop, but did much damage to cotton and juar. Conditions continued favourable to the spring crops, until rain and hail early in February caused considerable damage in six districts. The cloudy weather also favoured rust and insect pests. In March the damage from rust became especially noticeable in the Seoni District in the case of the later sown wheat. The final result was a rice crop above the average, a normal cotton crop, and a wheat crop which promised well but in the end proved less than the average. From December onwards the shortage of rainfall in Nimar and the Berar Districts led to the rapid rise of fodder prices and a scarcity of water, which in turn resulted in the distinct deterioration of cattle in the hot weather. Prices were considerably higher than in the previous year owing to the damage done to the spring crops by hail and rain. Imports of food-grains in the year under report fell by 6,163 tons, while exports rose by 174,404. The cotton crop being of normal size, factory business was generally brisk. The climatic features of the year were favourable to health, and these healthy conditions were reflected in the birth and death rates which were 49·47 and 34·67 per mille respectively, as compared with 47·67 and 44·88 in 1910. Plague was widely prevalent during the year, and one of its chief features was its spread to villages. Taken as a whole, the condition of both labourers and agriculturists was entirely satisfactory. There is still a distinct shortage of labour all over the provinces, and wages have ruled high.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

I—REALIZATION OF REVENUE

REALIZATION OF REVENUE

[Resolutions on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces and of Berar for the year 1910-11.]

The Central Provinces.

151. The total malguzari demand of land revenue on the roll in the Central Provinces amounted to Rs. 92,31,795, showing a net increase of Rs. 4,18,384, practically all of which is due to the revision of settlements in the Jubbulpore, Wardha and Damoh Districts, and in the three districts of the Chhattisgarh Division. At the beginning of the year the arrears of land revenue remaining to be collected were Rs. 81,462, of which Rs. 30,432 was suspended and Rs. 51,030 unsuspended. The result of the year has been to reduce suspended arrears to Rs. 16,948, practically all of which belongs to Damoh, where remission will probably have to be made. Unsuspended arrears amount to Rs. 176 only. The collections on account of the current demand were remarkably good. Only 5 districts failed to show clean sheets, and of the total demand only Rs. 916 remains in arrears, most of this being due from a malguzar in the Nagpur District whose village was accidentally burnt. There is a large item of Rs. 41,287 on account of Miscellaneous land revenue uncollected in Narsinghpur. It represents arrears of royalties from the Mohpani Coal Fields, the question of the payment of which is under discussion with the Government of India.

Berar.

152. The total demand on account of land revenue proper in Berar, including cesses, was Rs. 90,56,842, which is an increase of Rs. 64,093 over that of the previous year. The increase is mainly due to the levy of the full revised assessment in 201 villages in the Malkapur Taluq after the completion of the first fifteen years of the settlement, during which abatements were allowed. Small additions also accrued from the resumption of two Jagir villages in Yeotmal and certain inam holdings. The arrears of the previous year were Rs. 22,199, of which Rs. 3,199 were collected and Rs. 18,433 were remitted in the Melghat Taluq. The balance of Rs. 567 has since been written off. Out of the current year's demand, the sum of Rs. 90,56,422 was collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 420, part of which has since been written off and part recovered. The collections of Miscellaneous land revenue increased from Rs. 1,22,561 to Rs. 1,42,660. In Yeotmal there has been an increase from Rs. 32,998 to Rs. 48,438 in the auction bids of land allotted for cultivation, owing to keen competition for some unallotted land in the Darwha Taluq, while in Akola and Buldana the receipts on account of premium and penalty on land used for factory purposes have largely increased owing to the action taken to remedy the neglect of former years to enforce the proper assessment.

Coercive processes.

153. In the Central Provinces the number of coercive processes issued shows a small but satisfactory decrease. The number of attachments effected is still high in relation to the number of notices of demand issued; but a certain amount of wilful default must always be expected. On the other hand, habitual procrastination in making payments, the legacy of bad seasons, seems to be disappearing. In Berar the number of coercive processes issued decreased by nearly three-fourths. Coercive measures were confined mostly to cases in which the defaulters resided outside the Tahsildar's jurisdiction, or in which the liability was disputed. The provision of Section 117 of the Berar Land Revenue Code for the levy of a penalty for wilful default was enforced against three persons in Amraoti only. Not a single field was forfeited or sold for arrears. Attachments were issued in 130 cases against the personal property of defaulters, compared with 1,289 in the previous year, but attachment was effected in 17 cases only, and actual sale in one case. This great reduction is due to the stopping of the old practice under which a coercive process was issued in respect of every demand not credited into the Treasury on the fixed date of payment, which gave an entirely erroneous impression of the amount of coercion

REALIZATION OF REVENUE

required for the collection of the land revenue. The annual demand was easily recovered by the executive action of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars touring regularly in their taluqs.

Government loans.

154. The Government Loan Account of the Central Provinces and Berar (principal) is shown in the following statement. The figures are for the financial year ending the 31st March 1912:—

Statement showing Loan Accounts of the Central Provinces and Berar (principal) for the financial year ending the 31st March 1912.

	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.		Under the Land Improvement Loans Act.	
	With interest.	Without interest.	With interest.	Without interest.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Outstanding at the commencement of the year, *i. e.*, on the 1st April 1911.	3,74,949 6 11	316 8 9	15,42,493 12 3	...
Remitted during the year 1911-12 ...	1,004 2 11	108 11 6	118 11 6	...
Collected do. do. do. ...	3,81,984 1 5	76 13 10	4,52,879 6 1	...
Advanced do. do. do. ...	2,97,382 8 5	...	1,28,277 3 7	...
Outstanding at the close of the year, *i. e.*, on the 31st March 1912.	2,89,343 11 0	130 15 5	12,17,772 14 3	...

Central Provinces.

155. The year being one of general prosperity, collections under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and the Land Improvement Loans Act in the Central Provinces were good, recoveries under the former Act on account of principal amounting to 90 per cent of the demand, while under the latter Act 96 per cent of the demand was realized. Of the balance of Rs. 32,000 under the former Act, Rs. 20,000 belongs to the Nerbudda Division, Rs. 10,500 being suspended in the Hoshangabad Tahsil and Rs. 7,500 being in arrears in Betul: part of these sums may have to be remitted. Rs. 7,000 was remitted in the Baihar Tahsil of the Balaghat District. The joint security system continues to work well, and there seems to have been very little misuse of land improvement loans.

Berar.

156. The sums allotted in Berar during the agricultural year ending the 31st July, 1911, amounted to Rs. 18,930 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and Rs. 48,885 under the Land Improvement Loans Act. The demand due for collection as principal and interest was Rs. 1,40,464, but Rs. 1,44,883 was actually collected owing to the payment of some instalments in advance. Rs. 680 was suspended, Rs. 286 remitted, and Rs. 303 remained overdue. The net result of the year's working was a profit of Rs. 9,507 to the Local Administration after repaying the interest due to the Government of India.

SURVEYS — 2—SURVEYS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1911, and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1911.]

Traverse Survey.

157. The local traverse survey party worked in 6 districts, and 233 villages were traversed. The staff was strengthened by the addition of one computer. The assistance of the staff was also sought in connection with certain boundary disputes in Bilaspur, Drug, and Chhindwara. Considering that the work was scattered, and that the country under traverse was difficult and unhealthy, the outturn was satisfactory.

SETTLEMENT — 3—SETTLEMENT

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1911, and in Berar during the year ending 31st July 1911.]

158. The orders of the Government of India were received during the year on the Inception Reports for the resettlement of the Nimar and Saugor Districts, and proposals for the inception of operations in the Nagpur District

were submitted for sanction. Proposals for the fixation of the term of the revised settlement have also been submitted for the Wardha District. The final settlement reports for the Mandla and Raipur Districts have been prepared by the Settlement Officers and are in the Press The year under report saw the virtual completion of settlement in no fewer than five districts. A concession was made to the malguzari interest in the formal declaration of the half-assets standard of assessment, and revised instructions in regard to revenue assessment are being issued. The rent and revenue enhancements imposed, though in some cases, especially in Chhattisgarh, considerably higher than would have been considered advisable some 20 years ago, when ordinary tenants' rents were believed to be economically competitive, have met with such ready acquiescence as to suggest that even now they have erred on the side of leniency. A happy mean has thus been achieved, and the mass of the people have attained a standard of agricultural stability hitherto unknown. Operations took place in the following districts.

Jubbulpore.—Inspection of the remaining 243 villages was completed. Revised rents and revenue payments were announced in the Sehora Tahsil, consisting of 779 villages. The orders of the Administration were conveyed during the year on all the 10 assessment reports submitted. The assessment of the Jubbulpore and Patan Tahsils was fully completed and announcement was taken in hand.

Damoh.—In spite of the delay caused by census work, the attestation of the district was completed. The Settlement Officer inspected 644 villages, and completed the remaining 103 villages after the close of the year. Announcement was made in 323 villages of the Hatta Tahsil. Rent-rates were sanctioned for nine groups, comprising 625 villages, and assessment reports for seven of these groups were submitted. Office work was hampered by sickness among patwaris, but new sheets were prepared for 570 villages, leaving a balance of 178 for completion.

Saugor.—At the outset the Settlement Officer was employed in completing his enquiries into the reimposition of rents and revenue, and the district was not notified as under settlement till the 21st July 1912. Census operations also interfered with the Settlement work to a large extent. Inspectors attested 642 villages, and Assistant Settlement Officers dealt with 371 villages. Map correction was carried out in 994 villages.

Wardha.—The Settlement Officer inspected 486 attested villages of the Arvi Tahsil. Rent-rate reports for 12 groups and assessment reports for 9 groups were submitted during the year, and shortly after its close the whole of the assessment work was completed and announcement effected in the Wardha and Hinganghat Tahsils.

Raipur.—Besides the survey and attestation of 20 raiyatwari villages and the attestation of 6 summarily settled plots, revised rents and revenue were announced in 293 khalsa and 6 raiyatwari villages. The final settlement report of the district was submitted by the Settlement Officer after the close of the year.

Drug.—In the Sanjari-Balod Tahsil attestation was completed in 312 villages. Rent-rates were sanctioned for 400 villages, and proposals for the reassessment of 14 groups, with 1,035 villages, were received. In the Bemetara and Drug Tahsils revised rents and revenue were announced for 831 villages. Owing to the rapidity with which the work has been carried through, the cost of the settlement is estimated to be unusually small.

Nagpur and Nimar.—Map correction was carried out in 712 and 635 villages, respectively.

Bilaspur (Khalsa).—Attestation was completed last year, and the 16 villages which remained to be inspected were finished by the Settlement Officer during the year. Proposals for rent-rates and assessments in 507 and 859 villages respectively were sanctioned. Rents and revenue were announced in all remaining villages, and the assessment of the district was thus completed.

Bilaspur (Zamindaris).—Revised rents and revenue were announced in 6 Zamindaris, comprising 611 villages, and sanction was conveyed to proposals for the assessment of 4 Zamindaris with 297 villages. The claims of certain thekadars for the grant to them of protected status in villages of the Zamindaris of

SETTLEMENT

Chhuri, Champa, Korba, and Uprora were settled by the Financial Commissioner. The demarcation of the boundary between the Zamindaris and the Sakti and other Feudatory States has been undertaken.

Balaghat (Riyatwari). The enhanced assessments were revised in 145 out of 235 villages, and a total reduction of the assessment by Rs. 1,756 was sanctioned. Sanads for improvements in the case of large works costing over Rs. 200 were distributed to the tenants.

LAND RECORDS — 4—LAND RECORDS

[Reports on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1911, and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1911.]

Establishment.

159. Further steps were taken during the year under report to improve the status of the members of the Land Record Staff The system of candidate patwaris was introduced, 100 candidates on Rs 10 being appointed. The pay of patwaris in seven districts was raised to a minimum of Rs. 10 per mensem. In place of the system of annual rewards, good conduct allowances were sanctioned, whereby 10 per cent of the patwaris will receive Rs. 2 per mensem and 10 per cent will receive Rs. 3 per mensem. Horse allowances of Rs. 10 per mensem were sanctioned for all Revenue Inspectors, and their field allowances were changed into good conduct allowances. The cadre of Assistant Superintendents of Land Records was divided into 3 grades, the rate of pay being raised from Rs. 50 to Rs. 60, Rs. 70 and Rs. 80, and their daily travelling allowance was increased to Re. 1.

Boundary marks.

160. Map correction work in the Nagpur District disclosed serious neglect of survey marks. Notice has been taken of the matter in this and other districts. The rules adopted in Berar were found to be working well. Circle Note Books were up to date in all districts except two, where some villages remain to be written up. Village Note Books were complete and in good condition. In Berar the Circle Note Books were written up to date.

Testing of village papers.

161. The checking of village papers by the Land Record Staff, and by Deputy Commissioners and their subordinates, was adequate, and the land records were generally found to be well prepared. The percentage of inaccuracies detected in khasras rose slightly, while that in jamabandis was about the same as last year. The condition of village maps was satisfactory. The maintenance of land records was satisfactory, and the records were filed punctually, although the services of the Land Record staff were employed during a part of the field season in work connected with the census. In Berar the inspection of village papers was to some extent hampered owing to census work.

Conduct of the Land Record Staff.

162. The number of patwaris who had permission to reside outside their circles rose from 170 to 179. The number residing outside their circles without permission decreased from 355 to 307. The improvements effected in the emoluments of patwaris have made it easier to obtain suitable candidates. With the exception of disciplinary transfers, which increased from 60 to 95, the statistics of punishments inflicted on patwaris remained practically stationary, and their conduct was on the whole satisfactory. Revenue Inspectors have been well spoken of by Deputy Commissioners. During the year under review two misappropriations occurred in the Raipur and Seoni Land Records offices. Both the clerks responsible were dismissed, while the Seoni clerk was convicted and punished.

WASTE LANDS — 5—WASTE LANDS

[Reports on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1910-11.]

163. The chief districts in the Central Provinces in which waste lands are available for allotment are Mandla, Nimar, Chanda and Balaghat. The total area available for allotment at the commencement of the year was 332,353 acres, of which 76,832 acres were allotted during the year, leaving a balance, after allowing for relinquishment, of 319,495. In Mandla and Chanda the areas allotted and relinquished were practically the same; in Nimar their proportion was two to one; while in Balaghat relinquishments were much in excess of allotments. In Berar the area available for allotment in khalsa villages amounted to 46,770 acres, of which 3,921 were allotted during the year.

WASTE LANDS

Out of the total area available, 36,153 are in the Yeotmal District. It is practically all poor soil unfit for permanent cropping, and further allotment has been held in abeyance pending its examination in connection with the reclassification of Government Forests.

6—GOVERNMENT ESTATES

GOVERNMENT ESTATES

164. There are no Government Estates in the Central Provinces and Berar.

7—WARDS' ESTATES

WARDS' ESTATES

[Report on the management by Government of Private Estates for the year ending the 30th September 1911.]

The Central Provinces.

165. There were 73 estates under management at the beginning of the year, covering in the aggregate an area of nearly 10,000 square miles One estate was released during the year, and 4 new estates were brought under management. Though the season was not agriculturally so favourable as in the previous year, yet the rental demand was recovered practically in full and without difficulty. Good progress was made in the liquidation of debt. From a financial standpoint the general position, except as regards 4 estates, may be regarded as decidedly satisfactory.

Income.

166. The total gross income of the 73 estates for which figures have been submitted amounted to Rs. 15,67,028. Rental collections amounted to Rs. 7,58,305. Out of a net demand for the current year of Rs. 7,64,531, Rs. 7,29,716 was collected. The unsuspended balance at the close of the year on account of rents was Rs. 55,972. The income from forests, which amounted to Rs. 4,46,096, showed a large increase, mainly due to the bringing under management of new estates with large forests. There is reason to believe that in some cases the temptation to exploit the forests of large estates has led to results not altogether compatible with good forestry. The preparation of regular working plans in cases where the estate is soon to be handed back to the owner is unfortunately likely to be a waste of labour; but large estates with long minorities before them may afford scope for the services of an experienced Forest Officer, and the question of such an appointment is under consideration.

Expenditure.

167. The total ordinary expenditure amounted to Rs. 11,24,939, of which Rs. 3,41,153 was paid in land revenue and cesses. The cost of management amounted to Rs. 2,37,22., or 15 per cent on the gross ordinary income. Advances amounting to Rs. 2,09,064 were made. The total amount expended on estate improvements was Rs. 1,17,999, of which Rs. 70,608 was spent in the large estates of the Chhattisgarh Division. The improvements carried out during the year consisted in the construction of buildings, wells, field embankments, tanks and roads, and the works appear generally to have been useful ones. Steps are being taken to form a Co-operative Central Bank in Ahiri and to affiliate to it a small number of model rural societies. It is hoped that this will prove the beginning of a development of Co-operative Credit in estates under management.

Debt.

168. Good progress was made in the repayment of debts, Rs. 1,75,514 having been devoted to this purpose out of current income. The position of the Bichia Estate in the Jubbulpore District and the Rajoli Estate in the Bhandara District is unsatisfactory. The latter estate paid nothing on account of interest or principal during the year, while in the former estate, which is managed by one of the wards, no principal was repaid, and fresh debts were incurred. The affairs of these estates are being examined. The Chandrapur-Padampur Estate of the Bilaspur District, which is heavily involved, succeeded in paying Rs. 7,639 towards principal, and thereby made a substantial reduction in the amount of its debts.

General.

169. Increased attention is being devoted to the cultivation of the home-farm. Orders passed last year, and designed to secure uniformity in the calculation of expenses and receipts of this cultivation and in the system of accounts, were not issued in time to be put into effect for the purpose of showing the results of the past year's working. There is therefore no basis for comparison of these results. Such figures as have been given, however, show that in many

cases the profits obtained were far below what might have been secured by sub-letting. Generally the best results are obtained by associating the ward in the management of the home-farm. There seems also to be room for a fuller utilisation of the services of the Agricultural Department, which have proved most valuable in Seoni. The conduct of the wards and the educational progress of those under instruction has been generally satisfactory.

REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES — 8—REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES

[Resolution of the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1911, and of Berar for the year ending the 31st July 1911.]

General conditions. Central Provinces.

170. The timely rainfall with which the monsoon of 1910 opened in the early part of June was interrupted by a prolonged break in July. This was succeeded by heavy, and in some places torrential, falls in August and September, and the monsoon continued well sustained into October. There were unusually heavy falls in November, Nimar and Betul recording from 5 to 6 inches, and scattered showers were also received, more specially in the Northern Divisions of the Province, in January and March. The rainfall was sufficiently uneven to cause some damage to both kharif and rabi crops, and the heavy rain in November did considerable harm to cotton in the Nagpur Division and in the Harda and Harsud Tahsils of the Nerbudda Division. With this exception, the yield of both harvests was good, varying from full normal to bumper crops over the Province generally. There was therefore no decline from the general prosperity which marked the previous season.

Berar.

171. In Berar the year's rainfall was exceptionally heavy. The monsoon commenced in the second week of June, and the early rainfall was well distributed and sufficient for agricultural requirements. Prospects were most promising, and cultivators anticipated a bumper crop, but the heavy rain in September and October, which was greater in East than in West Berar, did much damage, particularly to cotton. Growth was stunted by water-logging, and the cost of cultivation was much increased by the necessity for weeding fields by hand labour instead of bullock hoes. The outturn of cotton was substantially lower than the good crop of the previous year, but the loss was counterbalanced by the exceptionally high prices which the commodity commanded in the market. Juar withstood the heavy rainfall somewhat better than cotton, and the late rain improved the prospects of the rabi crops, but they were damaged by frost in February.

172. The year was on the whole a prosperous one both for the Central Provinces and Berar. In the Central Provinces the total occupied area showed an increase of 75,000 acres, the expansion being chiefly noticeable in the Chanda, Bhandara and Balaghat districts of the Nagpur Division, and in the districts of the Chhattisgarh Division, in all of which the area available for cultivation is still large. The districts of Saugor, Betul, Wardha and Nagpur show unimportant reductions in the occupied area, partly attributable to the acquisition of land for railways and other works, and partly to the untimely rains at sowing time. In Berar the area occupied for cultivation, excluding the Melghat Taluq, shows an increase of 3,568 acres, owing to a small allotment of unoccupied land in the Yeotmal district. The occupied area in the Melghat Taluq decreased by 11,192 acres, which is partly due to the termination of the leases of non-resident speculators who were not cultivating the land held by them, and partly to the fact that lands which had been abandoned in previous years, and in respect of which suspensions and remissions of land revenue had been granted from time to time, were shown as relinquished. The cropped area showed a decrease of 131,877 acres owing to the heavy rain in July which interfered with the sowing of juar. The area under juar decreased by 11 per cent, and that under cotton and wheat increased by 5 and 11 per cent, respectively. Progress was made in the resettlement operations of the Melghat Taluq, final orders being passed regarding the system of management of the new reserve forest and the assessment of villages selected for regular and summary settlements. These important changes will require to be carefully worked with due regard to the interests of the aboriginal population, but should lead to substantial improvement in administration without any undue hardship to any class.

REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES

173. The excellent work done by Agricultural Associations, Co-operative Credit Societies, and the Veterinary Department in creating a better and more sympathetic understanding between the people and Government can hardly be overrated; and not the least important of the functions of the two former, apart from teaching the value of co-operation in general, will be to make the masses articulate, to voice the sentiments and ideas of the people on all subjects touching their own interests and welfare in a way which will not only ensure a due recognition of any expression of opinion, but will be of great service to Government officers whose business it is to get into touch with the people and find out what are their real aspirations and thoughts. An instance of co-operation is afforded by the operations undertaken in the Nerbudda Division for the destruction of wild pig. It is not too much to say that a few years ago it would not have been possible to put any such scheme into practical effect; it is possible now, because the public are beginning to learn the lessons, to the teaching of which Agricultural Associations and Co-operative Credit Societies have contributed so materially, the value of combination and the sincerity of the Government's desire to assist and encourage any popular movements that may serve the interests of the people.

174. In Berar the improvement in the relations between the Government and the people continued, and there is a marked difference between the present attitude and that prevailing some few years back, particularly amongst the educated classes and the leaders of the several communities, who now show a ready desire to co-operate in the measures proposed for the improvement of the administration. Riots connected with claims for land have not been so numerous, and crime of all kinds has been kept within normal limits, which is due to the general prosperity, improvement of police administration, and better co-operation by the village officials.

Tenants.

175. The total rental demand in the Central Provinces increased from Rs. 1,27,60,602 to Rs. 1,33,61,256. Rental collections of the year were uniformly good, but hardly perhaps as high in certain places as might have been expected. The percentage of collection for the current demand was only 82 in Bhandara, the low figure being attributed to leniency towards old tenants, and 83 in Wardha; while in Raipur, where the rents are still very light, it only just touched 90. The total tenant area rose by 63,000 acres, the increase being spread over all districts except Saugor, Betul, Wardha, and Nagpur. The decreases in the last-named districts are trifling and call for no remarks. The tenant area in the khalsa of Bilaspur, which had risen to 930,771 acres in 1908-1909, has for the second year in succession fallen slightly, and now stands at 928,059 acres. The fall is trifling and is more than compensated by the increase in the tenant area in the Zamindaris, where there is much good land waiting the plough.

Landlords.

176. There were fewer sales of land by order of Court than in the previous year, but private sales were more numerous. Very little information is available as to how the question of the transfer of proprietary rights really stands, and how the provisions of the Tenancy Act relating to it have been operating, but it will now be closely examined in connection with a reference which has recently been received from the Government of India regarding restrictions on such alienations. The area held in *sir* right increased by 30,000 acres, principally as a result of recent settlement operations in Damoh, Saugor, Wardha, Bilaspur and Drug and the only districts where settlement was not in progress, which show an increase, are Chanda and Balaghat. In nearly all the other districts transfers by proprietors and the consequent creation of occupancy rights has lead to a reduction.

Landlords and Tenants.

Central Provinces.

177. The relations between landlords and tenants continued to be satisfactory, but individual cases of friction were far from uncommon. Besides the disputes about *nistar*, which are the principal sources of disagreement, the scarcity of labour has become a new cause of trouble, malguzars enticing away and securing an unfair proportion of agricultural labour. Many of these cases can only be met, as all perhaps may be best met, by the personal influence and tact of District Officers, who seem to be fully alive to their responsibilities in this connection.

Berar.

178. In Berar the relations of landlords with their tenants in *izara* villages showed no improvement, and in some cases action was taken under the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code to check the possibility of riots. The question is most complicated, and involves the framing of a general Tenancy Law for Berar.

CHAPTER III

PROTECTION

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

1—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

179. The Legislative Authority for the Central Provinces is the Council of the Governor-General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations. For Berar, legislation is effected by notifications issued by the Governor-General in Council, under the power conferred on him by the Indian (Foreign Jurisdiction) Order in Council, 1902.

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

2—COURSE OF LEGISLATION

180. During the year 1911 no Act specially affecting the Central Provinces was passed by the Imperial Legislature. An agreement was entered into between the British Government and the Hyderabad State, providing for the unrestricted extradition of offenders from Berar to British India and *vice versâ*. The Indian Forest Act, VII of 1878, was made applicable to Berar, cancelling the Berar Forest Law, 1886, and the Berar Forest Law Amendment Law, 1891. The Central Provinces Village Sanitation Act, XI of 1902, as applied to Berar, was modified, and the notification applying Sections 1 to 7 of the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, VI of 1907, to Berar, was cancelled by the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

POLICE

3—POLICE

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1911, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Crime, general. 181. The season was favourable to agriculture and the year was one of general prosperity. The Police had a successful year, and there was a continued improvement in the methods of detecting crime and in the relations of the force with the people. Plague was very severe and widely distributed, hardly any part of the Province escaping its ravages, and to a great extent this counteracted the influences which were tending towards a diminution of crime. The number of offences reported to the Police was 25,338, as compared with 24,850 in 1910. The excess was due to a very large rise in the number of ordinary thefts. Apart from thefts, the classes of serious crime which showed an increase were rioting, murders and serious mischief. On the other hand, there was a marked decrease in the number of dacoities, robberies, house-breakings and thefts of cattle. The decrease in the number of dacoities and robberies has been continuous over the whole of the Province for the last four years, and is extremely noticeable in Berar, where since 1908 the number of dacoities has fallen from 117 to 27 and the number of robberies from 174 to 71. These good results are due to the stricter surveillance of habitual criminals, to vigorous action under the bad-livelihood sections, to the better working of the system of road patrols, and to the establishment of more cordial relations between the Police and the people.

Offences against the State, the person and property. 182. Offences against the State rose from 285 to 329, the increase being accounted for under "Other offences against public justice" and riots The number of murders rose from 213 to 222. Dacoities and robberies fell from 288 to 257. The number of riots increased from 160 to 202, and that of disputes concerning immoveable property rose from 182 to 266. Serious mischief of all kinds rose from 346 to 406, of which no less than 391 were cases of arson. This class of crime is particularly difficult to detect, and in only 17 cases was a conviction obtained. There were 46 cases of cattle-poisoning, of which 21 belonged to the Raipur District. The number of house-breakings fell from 6,527 to 6,338, and the total value of the property stolen in them from Rs. 4,23,094 to Rs. 3,61,405.

Police action. 183. Investigations were taken up less freely, the percentage in house-breakings falling from 59 to 58, and in thefts from 46 to 42. This fall is due

partly to the improved discretion exercised by Station-house Officers, and partly to the large number of concealed offences unearthed after it had become too late to investigate them. With fewer investigations improvement in the statistical results might have been expected, but actually the results are about the same as last year. The slight deterioration shown is attributed, not to any falling off in Police work, but to a fairer selection of cases for investigation, and a reduction in the tendency to take up petty cases for the sake of statistics. During the year Berar was rid of a most dangerous gang of house-breakers, composed of Marwari Jats and Charan Rajputs, led by one Achchal Singh, a dacoit and escaped convict from the Jodhpur State. There was no case of Police torture during the year.

Rural and Punitive Police.

184. There are no rural Police in these Provinces, but the Police are using their best endeavours to enlist the aid of village headmen and villagers in the reporting of crime, and there is evidence that crime is more accurately as well as more fully reported.

Establishment.

185. The mounted Police was re-organized during the year, the strength in certain outlying districts, where it was in excess of requirements, being reduced and the extra men transferred to Nagpur, which has been made a remount depôt for the mounted police of the whole Province. There were no casualties among the officers of the Indian Police either by death or by retirement during 1911, and no changes in the number of Inspectors and Sergeants. The sanctioned strength of Sub-Inspectors was raised from 643 to 669, the increase being required in order to provide vacancies for the new batch of probationers at the Training School. The number of posts reserved for probationers at the Training School was reduced from 65 to 60, and this number has been further reduced in the current year to 50, at which figure it is likely to remain for some years. Re-allocation schemes have been introduced completely in fourteen districts. The total cost of the Provincial Police force, including the Special Reserves, fell from Rs. 28,77,562 in 1910 to Rs. 28,62,834 in 1911. The decrease was due to savings in the strength of the rank and file, to the large number of vacancies due to the absence of recruits, and to savings in contingent expenditure, in which economy has been rigidly practised. The experiment of placing recruits under a three years' agreement alluded to in the report of last year has deterred the enrolment of men who were not prepared to stay on for any length of time; but there has not yet been time to judge its effect in checking resignations. The health of the force has been better than in the previous year, deaths numbering 132 against 155. The staff of the Finger Print Bureau was the same as in the previous year, and the work entrusted to it was well done.

Miscellaneous.

186. Two officers and 128 men were dismissed and 65 officers and 675 men punished departmentally. Supersession of officers in grade promotions are now recorded as punishments, which was not hitherto the case. Much better progress was made with the construction of Police buildings in 1911, about three lakhs of rupees being spent by the Public Works Department on this account in the year ending the 31st March 1911. The relations of the Central Provinces Police with those of Native States continued to be satisfactory. In the Central Indian States and Hyderabad the Central Provinces Police generally received cordial assistance from the State Police.

4—CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Criminal) of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1911 and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Crime.

187. The total number of offences reported rose from 36,480 to 37,046, but owing to the freer use made by Magistrates of their power to dismiss complaints under Section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, the number of cases returned as true was practically the same as in the preceding year. Of offences under the Indian Penal Code, those against property showed a decided fall from 8,223 to 7,801. Cases of criminal force and assault decreased slightly, while offences relating to marriage, defamation, criminal intimidation and hurt all increased. Offences affecting life numbered 436 against 448 in the previous year. No offence against the State was reported during the year. The total number of offences

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

under the Indian Penal Code differed only very slightly from that for the previous year. A further decrease in offences against property is, however, indicative of the prevailing prosperity. Offences under Special and Local Laws numbered 9,577 against 9,089 in 1910. Offences under the Cattle Trespass Act and the Central Provinces Municipal Act increased, and those under the Berar Municipal Law showed a trifling fall. There was a diminution in cases under the Excise, Forest, Police and Railways Acts. In Raipur ganja-smuggling from the Jaipur Zamindari is reported to have practically ceased. Prosecutions under the Vaccination Act were undertaken for the first time in Jubbulpore, six persons out of 27 under trial being convicted. Offences reported under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act were returned as 80 against 173 in the previous year, convictions numbering 30 against 76. It was not found necessary during the year to have recourse to the provisions of the Indian Press Act, 1910, the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, 1907, or the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908.

Courts of Original Jurisdiction.

188. The number of persons under trial in District Magistrates' Courts fell from 403 to 289, and the percentage on the total number of persons under trial in all Magistrates' Courts from ·79 to ·55. A Subordinate Magistrate at Bilaspur was invested with powers under Section 30 of the Criminal Procedure Code from the 15th April to the 15th June in order to relieve the District Magistrate of original criminal work while touring in the Zamindaris. The total number of persons under trial before Honorary Magistrates increased very slightly, and the number before Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates rose from 31,211 to 32,872 The number of persons under trial before Honorary Magistrates in Berar increased from 5,594 to 6,403, all four districts contributing to the rise. Of the total number of persons whose cases were disposed of by Magistrates, ·6 per cent were dealt with by District Magistrates, 68·5 by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, and 30·9 by Honorary Magistrates. In 1910 the corresponding figures were ·7, 67·4, and 31·9. The number of cases tried summarily was 3,675 compared with 2,846 in the preceding year, the percentage on the total number of cases disposed of rising from 10·6 to 13·3. In spite of a decrease in the number of offences against property, 623 persons were released on probation of good conduct under Section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code against 593 in the previous year. One more Tahsildar was empowered under this section during the year.

The despatch of business.

189. The number of cases disposed of during the year was 27,947 compared with 27,250 in 1910, the average duration in all Courts (17·2 days) being the same as in the previous year. The average duration of Police cases in the Central Provinces rose from 18·6 to 19·7 days, and in Berar from 15·8 to 16·5 days. The average duration of complaint cases in the Central Provinces fell from 21·6 to 20·7 days, and in Berar from 7·7 to 7·5. The low duration in Berar is accounted for by the large number of cases under the Berar Municipal Law, the number of which considerably exceeded the total number of cases under the Central Provinces Municipal Act in the 18 districts of the Central Provinces taken together. For these cases a single hearing usually suffices.

Sessions Courts.

190 The number of cases disposed of by Sessions Courts fell from 284 to 237. The disposals of all the Sessions Judges in the Central Provinces were less numerous than in the preceding year, the decrease in the Chhattisgarh Court, from 80 to 53, being the most marked. The percentage of convictions in Sessions cases was 66·7 against 56 in 1910. The average duration of Sessions cases was reduced from 58·8 to 48·1, but durations in such cases are largely the result of fortuitous circumstances.

Appellate and Revisional Jurisdiction.

191. The number of appeals preferred by convicted persons to the Judicial Commissioner's Court fell from 357 to 270. Benches of two Judges disposed of 52 appeals and of one reference for confirmation of a sentence of death under Section 374 of the Criminal Procedure Code in a case in which no appeal was preferred. The decision of the Lower Court was maintained in 74·9 per cent of the appeals disposed of against 75·9 per cent in the preceding year. The number of persons, whose appeals were before Sessions Courts, fell from 1,937 to 1,692, while those before District Magistrates and other Magistrates empowered to hear appeals rose from 2,906 to 2,975. The average duration of appeals in Sessions Courts fell from 19·5 to 18·4 days, and that in Magistrates' Courts

from 18 to 17·8 days. The percentage of cases, in which the sentence of the Lower Court was not altered, was 70·4 and 58·6 for Sessions Courts and Magistrates' Courts, respectively, against 71·6 and 57·7 in the previous year. The appeals of 1,488 persons were dismissed summarily against 1,885 in 1910. Appeals were filed by the Local Government against the acquittals of 15 persons implicated in eight cases. In two cases the acquittals were affirmed and the appeals dismissed, as the High Court considered the evidence of guilt insufficient to support conviction. In the third case the acquittal was reversed and re-trial ordered. In the fourth case the accused were convicted, four being sentenced to imprisonment and one being fined In the fifth case the High Court ordered the Sessions Judge to re-hear the appeal. In the sixth case the acquittal was quashed on appeal and a fresh trial ordered. In the seventh case the accused was convicted of murder and sentenced to transportation, and in the last, which was one of dacoity, a fresh trial was ordered.

Punishments.

192. The percentages of persons sentenced to imprisonment, with or without other punishment, to fine only, and to whipping only were 23·1, 74·0 and 2·9. The corresponding percentages in 1910 were 26·1, 70·5 and 3·4. The number of sentences of imprisonment for 15 days or less increased from 73 to 102. The number of previously convicted persons again convicted showed a fall from 749 to 612. The number sentenced to fine was 13,645 against 13,371 and the total amount of fines imposed fell slightly from Rs. 1,70,185 to Rs. 1,65,589, the percentage of realizations being 92·6 against 92·4. The amount struck off as unrealizable was Rs. 5,359 against Rs. 9,908, and the balance to be realized rose from Rs. 11,249 to Rs. 13,118. In addition to 16 boys whose sentences were commuted to detention in a Reformatory School, 12 juveniles, including two girls, were sentenced to imprisonment. The sentences of two of these 12 were altered in appeal to whipping, and five, who had been detained in jail in default of giving security for good behaviour, were released by order of the District Magistrate.

5—PRISONS

PRISONS

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1911, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

General.

193. There was no change in the number of Jails, which consist of one Subsidiary, 18 District, and 3 Central Jails. The Subsidiary Jail at Sironcha will shortly be replaced by a magisterial lock-up. It is in contemplation to have a separate Adolescent Jail, if possible, for the Province. In the meantime special measures have been taken at the Narsinghpur and Nagpur Jails for the care and treatment of this class of prisoners.

Jail population.

194. The prosperity of the agricultural classes is again reflected in the number of prisoners admitted to jail, which fell from 9,637 in 1910 to 8,413, with a daily mean average of only 3,576. The number of re-convicted prisoners also fell from 802 to 789. There was an increase in the number of European convicts admitted to the Jails, the figure being 9 as compared with 6 in the previous year. The number of juvenile prisoners sent to Jail decreased from 24 to 22.

Jail discipline.

195. There were 8 escapes during the year against 5 in 1910. The fugitives were all recaptured. Prison offences fell from 18,068 to 17,442, more than half the offences committed (10,795) being in connection with work. The number of floggings decreased from 52 to 50. Nearly all the floggings were given to habituals Jail discipline was, on the whole, good, and the strict supervision, which is a prominent characteristic of Jail administration, was well maintained.

Health.

196. Except in the Raipur Central Jail, the health of the prisoners was good. The Raipur Jail was unfortunately once again visited by an epidemic of dysentery, which was responsible for 33 deaths. Epidemics of bowel complaints occurred at intervals in the Nagpur Central Jail, particularly in the rainy season. The improvement of the water-supply, which is being carried out, should minimise the danger of such outbreaks in future. There were no cases of plague inside the Jails, except at Khandwa, where two cases occurred among inoculated prisoners. The disease was mild in both cases and recovery took place.

Adequate and successful precautions were taken in all Jails by the inoculation of prisoners and Jail officials and the quarantining of new admissions.

Jail industries.

197. Jubbulpore provides the Supply and Transport Department with sutharanjis, besides rugs, mattresses, pillow cases, towels, followers' clothing, &c. The contract for all India and Burma was taken at a reduced rate for 1911. This Jail also supplies blankets and blanket coats to all the Jails in the Province, to the Police, and the general public. The Nagpur Central Jail has 4 large industries, *viz.*, printing, the manufacture of quinine, paper-making, and the manufacture of clothing for all Jails in the Province. The quinine industry was started at the beginning of 1911 and has turned out a great success. The chief industries at the Raipur Central Jail are the manufacture of uniforms for the Central Provinces Police and Jaglia uniforms for Berar. Lesser ones are the making of cotton and aloe durries. At the end of the year arrangements were being made to introduce again the myrabolam industry. The chief industries in District Jails are stone-breaking, grain-grinding and aloe-pounding. The total cash profit for 1911 was Rs. 59,875 as compared with Rs. 75,481 in 1910. The daily average number of convicts under sentence of labour was 3,273, but excluding the sick, the infirm, &c., the balance available for work was 3,004, as compared with 3,377 in 1910. The number of convicts employed as prison officers and prison servants was 313 and 376, respectively, as against 335 and 403 in the previous year. A daily average number of 304 convicts was employed in the Jail gardens. 329 convicts were employed in preparing articles for the use and consumption of the prisoners, 156 on repairs and additions to Jail buildings, and 1,516 were available for factories. The percentage to the total population sentenced to labour thus employed was 46 against 43 in the previous year.

Cost of Jail administration.

198. The total cost to Government for the maintenance of convicts after deducting the cash earnings of Jail factories was Rs. 2,55,765 as compared with Rs. 2,90,991 in the preceding year. The average cost per head of the prison population was Rs. 71-8-0 as against Rs. 72-11-0 in 1910. The average profit per head of the number sentenced to labour was Rs. 10-0-8 as compared with Rs. 9-4-0, while the average cash profit per head was Rs. 18-4-8 as against Rs. 6-4-11. The savings effected to Government by the employment of prison labour amounted to Rs. 85,063 as compared with Rs. 1,00,180 in 1910.

CIVIL JUSTICE

6—CIVIL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1911, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Tribunals and character of litigation.

199. The number of Divisional and District Judges was the same as in the previous year. The number of Additional District Judges was increased by one, and the number of Subordinate Judges was correspondingly decreased. The period of entertainment of the Subordinate Judge whose appointment for one year from the 9th July, 1910, was sanctioned by the Secretary of State, was extended till the 29th February, 1912. The Cantonment Small Cause Court, Jubbulpore, was abolished with effect from the 1st December, 1911, from which date the Judge of the City Small Cause Court exercised jurisdiction in the Cantonment. The number of Munsiffs increased by two, the appointment of two temporary Munsiffs having been sanctioned for one year with effect from the 1st March and the 16th of June, respectively. The total number of suits instituted was 115,016 compared with 135,209 in the previous year. In the Central Provinces the number fell from 100,328 to 87,798, and in Berar from 34,881 to 27,218. The greater part of of this decrease is accounted for by the inflation of the figures for 1910 by an extraordinary rush of mortgage suits. The number of mortgage suits instituted in 1911 was only 5,520 against 21,158 in the previous year. The number of suits for money and moveable property was 89,125 against 93,065, while those of suits under the Rent Law and other suits (other than mortgage suits) showed no appreciable change. The total value of suits, which reached its high-water mark in 1910, declined from 282 to 194 lakhs, the average value of suits falling from Rs 186 to Rs. 140 in the Central Provinces and from Rs. 274 to Rs. 260 in Berar. Small Cause Court powers were conferred on two District Judges, five Subordinate Judges and three Munsiffs during the year. In consequence of the larger number of officers exercising these powers, there was an increase in the number of suits instituted in Small Cause Courts of the Central

Provinces from 21,166 in 1910 to 30,517 in 1911. The number of institutions in Small Cause Courts in Berar increased from 12,108 to 13,578. The percentage of suits disposed of by Munsiffs fell from 66·9 to 58·3, while that of suits disposed of by Small Cause Court procedure rose from 24·5 to 34·0.

Pending files.

200. Strenuous efforts were made during the year to reduce the heavy pending files which were the inevitable outcome of the abnormal institutions of the preceding year. The total pending file in the Central Provinces was reduced from 29,478 to 24,669 and that in Berar from 17,142 to 13,515, the number of suits pending in the combined territories at the end of the year being 23·1 per cent of the total number of suits before the Courts, against 27·4 per cent at the end of 1910. As the Nagpur files were so congested that they could not be reduced to a normal condition by the Judges permanently attached to the district, one Subordinate Judge's Court at Jubbulpore and one Munsiff's Court at Raipur were closed on the 15th May, and an Additional Subordinate Judge and an Additional Munsiff were posted to Nagpur from the 16th June. With their assistance the pending file of the Nagpur District was reduced from 6,187 to 4,178, the latter number being 21·3 per cent of the total number of suits for disposal. To cope with the heavy files in the Saugor District one Munsiff's Court was transferred from Seoni to Rehli from the 1st April, and from the latter place to Saugor early in August, with the result that the Saugor file was reduced by the end of the year from 3,354 to 2,387. All Civil Courts at Khandwa had to be closed from the 16th October to the 11th November on account of an outbreak of plague. Pending files in Berar were in a very congested state. In East Berar, where a Second Additional District Judge worked throughout the year, the pending file only decreased from 6,958 to 5,440. In West Berar, where an Additional Subordinate Judge and an Additional Munsiff were posted throughout the year, the number of suits pending at the close of the year amounted to 8,075, or 33·5 per cent of the total number of suits for disposal. The Small Cause Court at Khamgaon was abolished with effect from 1st April, 1912, and the Subordinate Judge thus set free was transferred to Malkapur.

Execution of decrees.

201. The number of applications for execution before the Courts rose from 121,876 to 125,874, the increase being shared by both the Central Provinces and Berar. The pending file rose from 24,884 to 26,970, Berar being responsible for practically the whole of this rise. The percentage of wholly infructuous applications in Berar (52·6) differed very slightly from that in the Central Provinces (51·8). The percentage of applications on which satisfaction was obtained in full was 20·2 and 23·9 in the Central Provinces and Berar, respectively, against 21·2 and 22·4 in the preceding year.

Appellate litigation.

202. The total number of appeals, regular and miscellaneous, which came before the Judicial Commissioner's Court, was 1,599, against 1,535 in 1910. Of these 822 were disposed of, the pending file rising from 559 to 777. The percentage of cases disposed of in which the Court did not interfere with the decision of the lower Court was 70·2 compared with 69·4 in the previous year. Durations seriously increased, 1911 being the first complete year in which the jurisdiction of the Court was exercised by Benches. Appeals, regular and miscellaneous, before Divisional Judges, rose from 481 to 497, and the pending file from 90 to 116. The number of regular appeals instituted was 372 against 314 in 1910. The whole of this increase is accounted for by the Nerbudda Divisional Court, in which institutions rose from 83 to 149, those in the three other Courts having slightly fallen. The average duration of regular appeals for the whole Province was reduced from 168·6 in 1910 to 94·6. The number of regular appeals pending in District Courts increased from 1,341 to 1,556. In the Central Provinces the number of institutions was 3,612 against 3,687, but the pending file rose from 598 to 780. The average duration in the Central Provinces was 70·0 compared with 60·6 in the previous year. Institutions in both the Berar Districts rose considerably. The pending file in East Berar was reduced from 529 to 434, but that in West Berar rose from 215 to 342. The average duration in East Berar fell from 314·8 to 282·5, while that in West Berar rose from 133·0 to 173·6. Of the total number of appeals decided by all Courts in the Central Provinces and Berar, 778 were dismissed for default, or the decisions of the lower Courts were confirmed; in the remaining 5,562 appeals the previous

decisions were confirmed in 2,998 cases, or 53·9 per cent against 2,853 out of 5,291 cases in 1910, the percentage being the same.

Miscellaneous.

203. Only one District Judgeship in the Central Provinces was held by a member of the Indian Civil Service during the year. A member of the Provincial Civil Service worked throughout the year in one of the three District Judgeships in the Central Provinces reserved for members of the Commission, the third being left unfilled, as in the preceding year. Another Provincial Civil Service officer occupied the post of Additional District Judge in Berar reserved for members of the Berar Commission. A member of the Provincial Civil Service officiated as District Judge, West Berar, for the first six weeks of the year. One District Judge of the Provincial Civil Service was invalided, and one Subordinate Judge retired after 30 years' service. Among Munsiffs one died, one was removed from Government service, and one was suspended. Nazarats were not separated in any district during the year. Chanda was, however, given a separate Judicial Nazarat from the 1st April, 1912, and the Nazarat of Mandla was separated on the annexation of that district to Jubbulpore from the same date. Joint Nazarats now obtain only in Seoni, Narsinghpur and Betul. Six cases of embezzlement by process-servers were reported during the year, but in only one of them was it necessary for Government to bear any part of the loss. The copying establishments of East and West Berar were re-organized during the year. The new Court-houses at Bhandara, Khandwa and Yeotmal were occupied and a start was made on the new buildings at Saugor, Raipur, Jubbulpore, Chhindwara, Seoni and Balaghat. New Munsifis were built at Rehli and Janjgir, and that at Katol was taken in hand. The Bemetara Tahsili was extended to provide proper accommodation for the Court and Office of the Munsiff at that place.

REGISTRATION

7—REGISTRATION

[Note on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces and Berar during the calendar year 1911, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India]

Registration.

204. The inevitable reaction which set in in 1910, after the extraordinary increase in registrations in the year previous, continued, and the total number of registrations in the Central Provinces and Berar fell from 83,342 to 79,842, or by 4 per cent. The number is, however, still much larger than in any previous year since Berar was amalgamated with the Central Provinces. The period of grace allowed for the institution of suits on a certain class of mortgages, in view of the Privy Council ruling referred to in the last report, having expired on the 7th August, 1910, the rush of transactions in adjustment of such mortgages ceased by that date. It is curious that during the year, up to the end of August, the number of mortgage deeds registered decreased by 3,053 as compared with the corresponding period of 1910, while the total number of all registrations during the whole of the year fell by 3,500. The total registrations in the Central Provinces decreased by 6 per cent and in Berar by 3 per cent. The decrease in both the areas was shared by all classes of documents except optional registrations relating to immoveable property. The value of property affected fell from 466 lakhs to 376 lakhs, or by 19 per cent, but the previous year's figure was swollen by some exceptional documents for 82½ lakhs executed in Jubbulpore in connection with the estate of the late Raja Gokuldas. There was a decrease of 4 per cent in compulsory registrations relating to immoveable property. Perpetual leases increased by 12 per cent, the Central Provinces accounting for 1,683 documents and Berar for 3. Optional registrations relating to immoveable property increased by 4 per cent, and their aggregate value by 35 per cent. Registrations affecting moveable property decreased by 6 per cent, and their aggregate value by 41 per cent. Orders under the Land Improvement Loans Act were filed in 427 cases against 458, while those under the Agriculturists' Loans Act were filed in 274 cases against 332, the decrease being due to good harvests. Sales of proprietary rights rose from 970 to 1,025, and the number of villages and shares included in these transactions from 1,218 to 1,283. 64 per cent of the total sales were in favour of agriculturists. As was to be expected, the bulk of the mortgages, *viz.*, 75 per cent, were in favour of non-agriculturists. The receipts of the Department amounted to Rs. 3,19,292 against Rs. 3,15,970, or an increase of 1½ per cent, while the total expenditure increased from Rs. 1,18,147 to Rs. 1,23,571, owing

partly to the appointment of an additional Inspector for Berar, and partly to the payment of commission to Sub-Registrars in Berar. The system of taking thumb impressions worked satisfactorily.

8—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

[Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1911-12, and Part VIII of the Statistics of British India.]

Number and constitution of Municipalities.

205. The number of Municipalities at the close of the year 1911-12 was 56, the decrease of 1 being due to the reduction of the Sohagpur Municipality, in the Hoshangabad District, to the status of a Notified Area. In Berar the policy of placing the Chairmanship in non-official hands was extended to the Amraoti Town Committee. All Municipal Committees, except those of Kalmeshwar, Saoner, Balaghat, Deori, Chhindwara and Sausar held at least the prescribed number of meetings. The average attendance at meetings was on the whole satisfactory, especially in the Municipalities of the Nagpur and Nerbudda Divisions. In the great majority of towns the electorate displayed little interest in the elections which were held during the year. Some wards, however, were keenly contested

Income.

206. The total income of all Municipalities, excluding extraordinary and debt, was Rs. 26,46,530 against Rs. 25,20,695 in the previous year. Rs. 3,37,000 was contributed by Government for special purposes. Of this, Rs. 2,09,000 was sanctioned for sanitary works. The Nagpur Municipality received Rs. 1,00,000, being the second instalment of the grant of Rs. 8 lakhs promised towards the Drainage Scheme for the City and Civil Station of Nagpur; the Wardha Municipality received Rs. 50,000, being the first instalment of the grant of Rs 1,28,000 promised towards the drainage scheme; and the Amraoti Camp Municipality received Rs. 12,500 towards the improvement of the Wadali Tank; the balance represents grants for the survey of drainage and water-works projects. The revenue from all taxes rose from Rs. 16,07,437 to Rs. 16,58,783. Octroi yielded Rs. 8,58,564 against Rs. 8,81,880 in 1910-11. The principal falls occurred in Jubbulpore, Khandwa and Chhindwara, for which the prevalence of plague was responsible. On the other hand, Nagpur, Harda and Bilaspur showed some increase. The total income from taxes other than octroi rose from Rs. 7,25,557 to Rs. 8,00,219. The principal increases were Rs. 35,677 under taxes on vehicles and animals, Rs. 26,862 under water-rates, Rs. 9,34[illegible] under tolls on roads, and Rs. 8,110 under conservancy cesses. The realizations under special Acts rose from Rs. 1,00,000 to Rs. 1,07,000, and the revenue derived from Municipal property and powers apart from taxation increased from Rs. 3,76,000 to Rs. 4,24,000.

Expenditure.

207. The total opening balance of the Municipalities in the Central Provinces and Berar at the beginning of the year was Rs. 9,47,912, while the receipts totalled Rs. 34,07,623. The total disbursements amounted to Rs. 32,91,942, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 10,63,593. The actual expenditure, excluding extraordinary and debt, amounted to Rs. 29,20,516; this represents an increase of Rs. 1,36,840 over the expenditure of the preceding year. The cost of general administration and collection charges rose from Rs. 2,99,976 to Rs. 3,19,379; of this increase, Rs. 11,000 appears under establishment charges, Rs. 5,000 under charges for collection of taxes, and Rs. 3,000 under pensions and gratuities. The cost of collection of taxes in the Central Provinces falls at 10 per cent and in Berar at 3 per cent, the same as last year The charges on account of plague increased from Rs. 44,212 to Rs. 76,416. The Government contributions towards plague expenditure amounted to Rs 29,175. The Nagpur and Jubbulpore Municipalities spent Rs. 19,467 and Rs. 26,268 against Rs. 7,344 and Rs. 6,921, respectively, in the previous year. Large expenditure was also incurred in Seoni, Mandla, Chhindwara, Narsinghpur, Khandwa and Raipur. The expenditure in Berar was very small, being only Rs. 1,845 against Rs. 13,662 in the previous year. The towns in Berar were fortunately almost free from plague. In the city of Nagpur a special rat campaign under Captain Morrison, assisted by two Naib-Tahsildars, was undertaken in May and June, and again from October to the middle of January, Government contributing a grant of Rs. 9,000 for this purpose. The capital

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

outlay on water-supply amounted to Rs. 4,36,792 against Rs. 4,67,630 in the previous year. The bulk of this expenditure (Rs. 4,12,000) was incurred in Nagpur on the completion of the Gorewara Reservoir. The capital outlay on drainage amounted to Rs. 2,01,172. Of this total, Rs. 1,50,000 represents grants received by the Municipalities of Nagpur (Rs. 1,00,000) and Wardha (Rs. 50,000) as part payments for financing their drainage schemes; other grants to the extent of Rs. 37,677 were given to the Municipal Committees of Bhandara, Jubbulpore, Saugor, Harda and Bilaspur for drainage surveys. Grants were also sanctioned for the preparation of drainage projects for Akola, Khamgaon, Burhanpur, Khandwa, Raipur and Amraoti Town; but these grants did not pass through the Municipal accounts. The expenditure incurred on drainage works, and on the preparation of projects during the year, was thus almost entirely defrayed from Government grants. The amount actually spent under this head from Municipal funds was only Rs. 13,495, and this was chiefly incurred on repairs to existing drains. The drainage scheme for the City and Civil Station of Nagpur, prepared by Messrs. Lane-Brown and Hewlett, Sanitary Engineers, is making good progress. The construction of the Wardha drainage works, undertaken by the same firm of Engineers, was also begun during the year. In addition to these works, Khamgaon has a drainage project ready for inception, and a scheme is in preparation for the city of Jubbulpore. The Chief Commissioner has been compelled to order the postponement of further drainage schemes for the present, as it is necessary to devote all available funds to water-works which are urgently required in several towns, both in the Central Provinces and in Berar. The expenditure on conservancy and sanitation rose from Rs. 4,47,668 to Rs. 4,77,172. The increase is chiefly noticeable in the Nagpur, Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions; in Berar the expenditure remained practically the same as in the previous year. The opening out of congested areas is receiving attention in several places, *e g.*, Khandwa, Pandhurna, Sausar, Burhanpur, Jubbulpore, Nagpur and Amraoti Town. The expenditure on public instruction was Rs. 2,88,717 against Rs. 2,73,651 in the previous year; the Government contributions for educational purposes amounted to Rs. 71,702 against Rs. 63,814. The expenditure by Municipalities is chiefly confined to Primary and Middle Schools. The needs of education in respect of additional masters, improvement of their pay, extension of school buildings, etc., are receiving attention.

Loans.

208. The Government loans taken during the year amounted to Rs. 3,74,000. The Nagpur Municipality took Rs. 3,50,000, of which Rs. 2,50,000 represents the final instalment of the loan of Rs. 7½ lakhs sanctioned for the Gorewara Water-works, and Rs. 1,00,000, the second instalment of the loan of 8 lakhs sanctioned for the drainage scheme for the City and Civil Station of Nagpur; the Saoner Municipality obtained Rs. 4,000 for the construction of a school and a cotton market; and the Raipur Municipality took a loan of Rs. 20,000 for the construction of shops. Thirteen Municipalities, *viz.*, Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Hinganghat, Arvi, Saoner, Jubbulpore, Seoni, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Harda, Raipur and Akola, have taken loans from Government. The total balance outstanding at the close of 1911-12 amounted to Rs. 21,48,300. Of this total, the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Municipalities, which are the largest borrowers, owe, respectively, Rs. 11,42,092 and Rs. 4,56,911. The finances of all towns which have taken loans are satisfactory.

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS — 9—DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

[Resolution on the working of District Councils and Local Boards for 1911-12 and Part VIII of the Statistics of British India.]

Number, constitution, meetings and attendance.

209. The Nagpur District Council and the Local Boards subordinate to it were reconstituted during the year, an additional Local Board being created for the Saoner Tahsil. There has been no change in the number of District Councils and District Boards. The Mandla District and the remote Tahsil of Sironcha in the Chanda District are still excluded from the operation of the Local Self-Government Act, and their local affairs are administered by District Fund Committees. In Mandla, however, the enlargement of the District Fund Committee and the formation of an Advisory Sub-Committee at Dindori in that district, represent a step towards the extension of the Self-Government Act to this area. In Berar, the Melghat taluq is the only taluq which is excluded from

the operation of the Berar Rural Boards Law of 1885. All District Councils and District Boards attained or exceeded the prescribed number of meetings. The Local Boards of Jubbulpore, Damoh, Warora, Sakoli, Betul, Multai, Raipur, Drug, Sanjari and of the Chanda and Raipur Zamindaris failed to hold the required number of meetings. The default is commonly ascribed to the prevalence of plague. There has been no improvement in the attendance of members at Council and Board meetings. The average percentages of attendance, for the Provinces as a whole, were the same as in the preceding year.

Income and expenditure.

210 The income and expenditure, excluding account heads, showed an increase of Rs. 2,65,000 and Rs. 1,49,000, respectively, as compared with the preceding year. The increase in income is noticeable chiefly under Local Rates (Rs. 42,000), Cattle Pounds (Rs. 91,000), Contributions (Rs. 73,000) and Bazar Cess (Rs. 32,000). On the expenditure side, General Administration (Rs. 21,000), Education (Rs. 47,000), and Civil Works (Rs. 61,000) share the bulk of the increase. The closing balances of all District Councils are well in excess of the prescribed minima. The surpluses are, in some cases, due to increased receipts; but, more often, they are the result of the failure of District Councils to work up fully to their Budget allotments for Civil Works. The Nagpur Division already possesses a Local Fund Engineer, and in all other Divisions Local Fund Engineers have been appointed since the commencement of the year 1912-13. Under improved conditions it should not be difficult to utilise the accumulated balances generally in carrying out useful works for which there is everywhere ample scope. The total expenditure on Education, excluding expenditure on buildings and repairs which is included under Public Works, was Rs. 6,00,000 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 3,07,000 in Berar. The Government contributions for Education amounted to Rs. 4,29,000 in the Central Provinces and to Rs. 86,000 in Berar. The average percentage of their total income spent by the Councils on recurring expenditure on Education was 35 per cent in the Central Provinces and 30 per cent in Berar. On the 33 per cent basis, which has been accepted as the percentge of income which may properly be devoted to Education, the expenditure may thus be considered to have been approximately normal. The number of Primary Schools in the Central Provinces was 1,664 at the close of the year, or 17 more than in the preceding year, and in Berar 631, or 4 more. The number of Middle Schools in the Central Provinces decreased from 89 to 82, while the number of such schools in Berar increased from 127 to 132. In the Nagpur Division there was some change in the classification of schools due to the scheme for the improvement of Vernacular Middle Schools introduced during the year. In many districts there is a demand for more schools and the District Councils are everywhere anxious to respond to this demand; but want of funds and paucity of trained teachers have operated to retard the extension of Primary education. With the grants which the Local Administration has now begun to receive from the Imperial Government, headway will soon be made against the stagnation arising from the former of these causes, and uncertificated teachers are being gradually replaced by certificated masters, although the supply of the latter is still deficient. District Funds in the Central Provinces and Berar subsidised 136 dispensaries against 140 in the previous year; the expenditure was Rs. 98,155 against Rs. 95,150. The cost of vaccination was Rs. 58,721 against Rs. 49,833 in the preceding year. The expenditure on Sanitation and Conservancy in Berar amounted to Rs. 43,465 against Rs. 50,518 spent in the previous year, while that in the Central Provinces amounted to Rs. 2,154 against Rs. 4,369. But these amounts do not include the expenditure incurred on the construction and repairs of wells; this is shown under "Civil Works—Water-supply and Water-works," and amounts to Rs. 24,731 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 13,746 in Berar, against Rs. 28,916 and Rs. 10,840, respectively, in the previous year. The total expenditure on Civil Works in the Central Provinces was Rs. 5,41,420 against Rs. 5,37,489 in the previous year. The expenditure on roads, *viz.*, Rs. 1,75,000, was also practically the same as in the previous year. The expenditure on Civil Works in Berar shows an increase of Rs. 57,000. The amount spent on arboriculture in the Central Provinces was Rs. 15,399 against Rs. 17,450 in the preceding year; while in Berar it was Rs. 11,244 against Rs. 9,630. The number of cattle pounds was 909 in the Central Provinces and 299 in Berar. The income from this source increased considerably, *viz.*, by

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

Rs. 41,000 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 50,000 in Berar. All charges on account of Veterinary Dispensaries, except the pay of Veterinary Assistants which has been provincialized, are met from District Funds.

MILITARY

10—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING)

The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles.

211. The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles are the only two Volunteer Corps in the Provinces. The enrolled strength of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles rose from 1,263 to 1,306, of whom 34 were Commissioned Officers Of this total figure 1,196 were extra-efficient, 95 efficient and 15 non-efficient. Marksmen numbered 239, an increase of 33, and Reservists 66, all of whom were efficient. Financially the Corps was in a satisfactory position. The Corps furnished a representative contingent at the Coronation Durbar of Their Imperial Majesties King George V and Queen Mary held at Delhi on 12th December, 1911. A Guard of Honour consisting of 2 officers, 4 Non-Commissioned officers, and 100 men was also furnished at the Railway-Station by the Corps on the occasion of the visit of Their Majesties to Nagpur. The Camp of Exercise was held from the 25th January to 31st January, 1912. The average attendance was 576 as against 498 in the previous year, thus constituting a record camp. It is pleasant to record that on the 27th March for the first time the Corps was able from its own men to man four 15-pr. B. L. Field Guns for live shell firing at Wadi.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles.

212. The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Corps is divided into two Battalions, the first of which is under the administrative control of the Government of Bengal, with its head-quarters at Kharagpur, while the second has its head-quarters at Nagpur. The total enrolled strength of the 2nd Battalion on the 31st March, 1912, was 298 (including 12 officers), as against 280 in the previous year. 261 were classed as extra-efficient, and only four men as non-efficient, marksmen numbering 57. The financial position of the Corps was satisfactory. During the year several large field days were held, and Volunteers collected from all over the line to take part in them. The General Officer Commanding the Presidency Brigade inspected the Corps on the 3rd February, 1912. Seven officers and 111 rank and file of the 2nd Battalion attended the parade.

CHAPTER IV

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

1—AGRICULTURE

[Reports on the working of the Department of Agriculture and on the Agricultural Stations of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th June 1912.]

Agriculture.

213. There were no changes throughout the year among the senior staff. Having regard to the increase in the number of farms and the great advance made in demonstration, the superior staff must have been working at high pressure. The expansion was not on new lines introduced by the Department, but was in response to increasing demands made on their activities on lines of already proved practical utility, and the pressure will therefore tend to intensify as time goes on. As the work of the Director increases, more decentralization will be necessary, and higher powers and greater responsibility will devolve on the Deputy Directors. With progress maintained at the present rate, it will probably not be long before there will be enough going on in each Division to keep a Deputy Director fully employed. Proposals have been submitted for the entertainment of a third Deputy Director and an Assistant Director and it is to be hoped that their services will be speedily available.

Agricultural education.

214. There were no changes of importance in the administration of the Agricultural College during the year. It is to be regretted that the College has not yet succeeded in attracting any considerable number of the cultivating castes, for the average type of recruit produced by the College seems, temporarily at any rate, to be in some respects inferior to the standard hitherto achieved and required for the work in which the Department is engaged. The Director has been asked to submit proposals for rendering a more suitable type of student available for recruitment to the College; but in the meantime every effort is to be made to attract cultivating castes. There is no doubt but that a mixture of these with such individual members of the literary castes as experience may show to be well adapted, physically and mentally, for agricultural work, will afford perfectly suitable material for the provincial and subordinate staff as at present constituted.

215. The *Agricultural Gazette* continued to maintain its popularity, the number of its subscribers increasing from 5,865 to 6,000. During the year it was enlarged by the addition of a section on Co-operative Credit and its title changed to the *Agricultural and Co-operative Credit Gazette.* Facilities for bringing the work of Co-operative Credit before the agricultural public have been immensely improved, and the step is in accordance with the policy of the Agriculture Department of keeping in close touch with the work of Co-operative Credit and of regarding Co-operative Societies as the future means through which fresh agricultural ideas will most readily reach the people.

Agricultural enquiry and demonstration.

216. The principal lines of demonstration dealt with during the year were transplanted rice, sugarcane, cotton and the destruction of pig. As regards rice, a good advance is expected in the area that will be actually transplanted in Chhattisgarh; the question will be of increasing importance as work progresses on the Mahanadi and Tendula irrigation projects, and it is desirable that a repetition should be made of the interesting experiment tried this year of personally conducting several Chhattisgarhi cultivators to the Balaghat District, where the whole method of management of this form of rice cultivation was explained to them by the local cultivators, with the result of convincing them not only of the advantages but of the practical feasibility of transplantation. With the extension of irrigation, there is scope for a large expansion of the sugarcane area. Until the advantages of wheat irrigation are more fully understood and established, sugarcane is of special importance, in that it will take the water intended and available for the rabi crop. It is understood that the irrigating capacity for the various crops, especially sugarcane, is now being worked out with the Irrigation Department for each of the more important tanks. The

Department is considering the possibility of the extension of cotton in parts where it has hitherto been unknown, and the introduction of a longer stapled cotton in tracts with a heavier rainfall than that of Berar. In the districts of Hoshangabad, Nimar and Damoh in the Northern Circle some 12,000 pig were killed in five tahsils. The method so successfully employed in this part of the Province would only be possible in suitable country fairly open and without too continuous jungle, but it is a good example of what can be effected under the influence of the Agriculture Department.

217. One of the most important results secured in the year has been the successful cultivation at Telinkheri of *berseem*, which in some cases yielded as much as 20,000 pounds of green fodder per acre at a single cutting. It is not only that this may go far to solve the fodder problem near big towns, but the production of fodder, being directly connected with the supply of manure, is also of great importance in the progress of all irrigated tracts. If *berseem* can yield fodder on this scale, there would seem to be no reason why good buffaloes should not be kept and stall-fed in larger numbers in areas where irrigation is possible, thereby increasing the supply of manure which is so essential for the development of the full productive power of irrigated land. Experiments in sericulture have again resulted in failure owing to disease among the worms. Economically, the industry would be profitable if disease could be controlled, but under existing circumstances it is doubtful whether it is worth while to persevere with these attempts. The cattle-breeding farms again showed good results, so far as they went. But, while they can set a standard of breeding and assist private enterprise by the supply of good bulls, it cannot be expected that they will produce any appreciable direct effect on the supply of cattle for the Province. The solution of this question must be looked for in other directions, and may possibly be found in small private farms, of which some have already been started by the Court of Wards and by malguzars.

District Associations.

218. The Agricultural Associations continued to do good work. Their success is directly dependent on the active interest and co-operation of the District Officer, and it is gratifying to record that various officers gave valuable assistance to the Department in this and in other ways. The other factors contributing to success are to confine each association to a homogeneous area of not too great an extent, and then not to consider general and theoretical lines of development, but to study the practical local needs and problems of that particular tract.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

1-(*a*)—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

[Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March 1912, and Statistics of British India, Part II, Commercial.]

Co-operative Societies.

219. That the appointment of a full-time Registrar for these Provinces was very necessary has been conclusively proved by the rapid development of the co-operative movement. The special novelty of the year's working was the institution of the Provincial Bank, which was successfully started with a capital of five lakhs, and which should do much, not only to finance the Central Banks and bring them into touch with the money market, but to advance through them the cause of co-operation in general.

Societies.

220. During the year, the Provincial Bank, 12 new Central Banks, 2 Urban Societies, 12 Industrial Societies and 260 Rural Societies were registered; while the 4 Unions of Societies, with unlimited liability in Balaghat were done away with, and 2 Urban Societies—the Raipur Official Society and the Burhanpur Urban Society—were wound up. Although the number of Rural Societies almost doubled, the increase in the total number of members was comparatively small, due mainly to the fact that the re-organization of large unwieldy societies in the Betul and Akola Districts continued and was completed. From these large societies, comprising members from several villages, smaller societies have been formed, restricted in almost every instance to single villages. The total co-operative capital in use rose from Rs. 5,02,076 to Rs. 10,23,592; repayments were generally punctually made, and reserve funds rose from Rs. 19,179 to Rs. 34,484.

Working of Societies. Provincial and Central Banks.

221. The Provincial Co-operative Bank, Limited, with head-quarters at Nagpur, was registered in December 1911, and before the close of the co-operative year, a considerable portion of the share capital had been paid up, which, by arrangement with the shareholders, was at once invested in loans to Central Banks, thus avoiding any loss of interest. At the close of the year there were 20 Central Banks in the Provinces; but of these five had not commenced operations, while seven others could show only very small transactions. The total working capital held by Central Banks amounted to Rs. 3,87,855, of which Rs. 72,218 represented deposits by members. The working capital of the Crosthwaite Central Bank at Sihora at the close of the year stood at Rs. 1,61,073 as against Rs. 1,16,730 at the close of the previous year. The Bank financed 159 societies, all situated within the Sihora Tahsil, while loans amounting to Rs. 71,903 were advanced during the year. Its turnover almost reached Rs. 5,00,000, and deposits more than doubled. The Murwara Central Bank made satisfactory progress during the year. It financed 22 Rural Societies, as against 16 in the previous year; working capital increased from Rs 6,941 to Rs. 11,756. Loans amounting to Rs. 5,625 were advanced during the year, the net profits earned amounting to Rs. 657. The policy of the Balaghat District Bank during the year was one of consolidation rather than of expansion. Its working capital on the 31st March 1912 was Rs. 74,275, of which Rs. 15,171 represented deposits by members. During the year advances were made to constituent societies amounting to Rs. 68,242, the net profits earned being Rs. 2,190. During the year the working capital of the Betul Central Bank rose from Rs. 20,578 to Rs. 43,378. The Bank financed 77 Rural and Village Industrial Societies out of the 97 in the district, the other 20 societies being able to raise loans locally at exceptionally cheap rates and to attract local deposits. The results of the working of the Hoshangabad Central Bank were satisfactory; its working capital increased from Rs. 2,320 to Rs. 10,171, the number of Rural Societies financed by the Bank rose from 7 to 14, and the net profits earned amounted to Rs. 421. The number of societies financed by the Harda Central Bank rose from 9 to 13, and the working capital from Rs. 6,741 to Rs. 17,101; while the net profits earned were Rs. 425. The working capital of the Akola Central Bank rose from Rs. 15,152 to Rs. 21,901. Share capital rose to Rs. 15,675, while a cash credit of Rs. 10,000 was granted by a local banker. The Bank lent out a sum of Rs. 30 498 as against Rs. 11,025 in the preceding year, earning a net profit of Rs. 1,095. The Sironcha Central Bank continued to work satisfactorily, but its development was greatly hampered by want of cash. It is hoped that this difficulty will be solved by means of the Provincial Banks inspecting agency. The working capital of the Bank rose from Rs. 6,054 to Rs. 10,444 and the reserve fund stood at Rs. 412 at the end of the year.

Urban Banks with limited liability.

222. There were eight Urban Societies in existence at the close of the year. Three of these are composed entirely of Government servants, two include amongst their members a large proportion of Government servants, and three are made up of traders and working people. The Official Society at Raipur and the Society at Burhanpur were wound up, in consequence of which and of the removal of 56 undesirable members from the Betul Official Society, the total membership decreased from 1,267 to 998. Working capital fell from Rs. 79,534 to Rs. 76,526, almost a third of which consisted of deposits by members. The Nagpur Press Society continued its satisfactory working; working capital increased from Rs. 8,294 to Rs. 10,286, although membership fell from 152 to 145. During the year certain much needed reforms were carried out in the Betul Official Society; unpunctuality was, as in the past, a regrettable feature in the working of the Society. Working capital fell from Rs. 9,493 to Rs. 7,293. Apart from dissensions between members material progress was made by the Balaghat Urban Society; membership rose from 329 to 334, working capital from Rs. 18,674 to Rs. 19,390, compulsory deposits from Rs. 3,653 to Rs. 4,291, and the reserve fund from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 4,548. The Baihar Urban Society, like the Balaghat Society, is composed of officials and unofficials, and although much progress was achieved during the year, unpunctuality in payments must be removed before moral progress can be secured. As a contrast, the two outstanding features of the Hatta Urban Society were

punctuality and the successful and profitable employment of loans. The Society had a working capital of Rs. 12,826, and a membership of 125. The working capital of the Harda Urban Bank fell from Rs. 14,008 to Rs. 13,800 and membership from 110 to 104. Loans to the extent of Rs. 8,795 were advanced to members and Rs. 3,026 to other Societies. The reserve fund was Rs. 1,561 and the profits earned totalled Rs. 1,007. The two new Urban Societies registered during the year are the Evans Pure Seed Supply, Limited, and the Nagpur Agricultural Office Society. The main object of the former Society is to supply pure seed grown on seed-farms under the supervision of the Agricultural Department.

Industrial Societies with unlimited liability.

223. During the year 12 Industrial Societies were registered in the Central Provinces. They are composed of petty traders and artisans, such as weavers in Bhandara, Harda, Betul and Balaghat, workers in brass in Betul and Balaghat, Gaolis in Nagpur, basket-makers in Harda, and dyers in Sihora. The chief feature sought to be secured in these Societies is the regulation of borrowing capacity by the degree of thrift displayed.

Rural Banks.

224. The number of rural societies rose during the year from 280 to 540, while membership increased from 7,203 to 9,516 and working capital from Rs. 2,48,026 to Rs. 3,78,695. Societies were formed for the first time in the districts of Nagpur, Bhandara, Nimar, Narsinghpur, Damoh, Drug, Amraoti and Buldana.

Of the money lent to members of Societies, 35 per cent was for purchase of bullocks, 24 per cent for payment of old debts, and 19 per cent for the purchase of seed and implements. Money is lent at 12 per cent, all profits being taken to reserve.

Resources.

225. No Government loan was made during the year, and the total Government grant outstanding at the close of the year was only Rs. 2,300. Deposits by members of rural societies increased during the year from Rs. 22,406 to Rs. 33,730. These deposits remain in the hands of the societies themselves and are employed as part of their working capital.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

1-(*b*)—VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

[Report on the working of the Civil Veterinary Department, Central Provinces, for the year ending the 31st March 1912.]

Veterinary Department.

226. During the year the expenditure incurred by the Veterinary Department rose by Rs. 37,600, the increase being due to the ever-widening circle of the Department's activities, and being more than justified by the results obtained. Work on tour and in dispensaries expanded considerably; the number of deaths due to anthrax, black-quarter, and hæmorrhagic septicæmia showed an appreciable decline, while progress in preventive inoculation was specially noticeable. This latter work was of particular importance in dealing with the number of outbreaks of rinderpest which occurred during the year, and which could thereby be more or less effectively localised. The system of reporting outbreaks of disease by patwaris has improved, but the present organization for the rapid receipt of reports from villages is necessarily imperfect, and the only means of improving it is to induce owners to report direct to the Veterinary Assistant. In the few cases where this has been done, the Veterinary Assistant has nearly always succeeded in arriving in time. Veterinary Assistants were able to obtain much more reliable information as to the number of deaths during outbreaks; this was due not only to the increased number of touring men, but also to the increased popularity of Veterinary Assistants and the voluntary help they now receive when attending an epidemic. Foot and mouth disease was prevalent throughout the Province, and the number of deaths reported was 1,810 against 487 in the previous year.

227. A scheme was submitted during the year for a complete remodelling of the upper subordinate cadre. The cardinal point of it is to make the unit controlled by an Inspector the district, instead of the division, and to hold the District Inspector responsible not so much for the inspection of his subordinates, as for the detailed control of their work, while himself sharing in it. The divisional control will be exercised by Deputy Superintendents, whose qualifications will be considerably superior to those

of the present Inspectors. Local Bodies in general appear to have failed to recognize as fully as they should do the need for co-operation with the Department, more especially as this failure expresses itself chiefly in refusals to consider veterinary requirements in what are often petty and trivial details. The importance of veterinary work from the district point of view can hardly be over-rated. Continued demonstration work at Agricultural Association Meetings, fairs and shows should do much to convince local members of the real value to the district of what the Department is doing.

2—WEATHER AND CROPS

WEATHER AND CROPS

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1911-12; area and yield of certain principal crops in India, 1911-12.]

Rainfall.

228. The monsoon commenced strongly in the first week of June, but weakened after a fortnight. A break of about three weeks was followed by rain in the middle of July, with another break at the close of the month. The rainfall in July was generally in defect; the transplantation of rice was delayed; and in the juar-cotton districts much of the kharif sowing had either to be temporarily postponed or else repeated, owing to the failure of the seed first sown. In August the rice districts secured heavy rain. The September rains were very unevenly distributed, the north of the Provinces getting rather too much, while the extreme west got very little. But October saw heavy rain in the rice districts, which put their staple food-crop in a sure position, and the north of the Provinces also fared well enough; only in Nimar and the Berar Districts did the continuance of drought cause damage to kharif crops in the lighter soils, and at the end of the month the first complaint of scarcity of fodder and water was received from the Nimar and Buldana Districts. Then followed general and heavy rain at the end of November, which strengthened the prospects of a good rabi crop, but did much damage to cotton and juar. Thereafter conditions continued favourable to the spring crops until rain and hail early in February caused considerable damage in six districts. The cloudy weather also favoured rust and insect pests. In March the damage from rust became especially noticeable in the Seoni District in the case of the later sown wheat. The final result was a rice crop above the average, a normal cotton crop, and a wheat crop which promised well but in the end proved less than the average. The general average rainfall of the Central Provinces was 46·59 inches for the twelve months, as compared with a 44 years' average of 48·26 inches. In Berar the rainfall totalled 23·23 inches as against an 18 years' average of 31·46. Mandla, Seoni, Nagpur, Bhandara, Balaghat, and the districts of Chhattisgarh all received more than their normal quantity. The rest received but little less than the average, except Betul, the Berar districts and Nimar, the last-named district recording less than half its normal.

Character of the season.

229. The kharif area of the Central Provinces declined by 27,000 acres, as compared with the previous year. The figures reported from the Jubbulpore and Nagpur Divisions fell by 13,000 and 32,000 acres, respectively, while in the Nerbudda Division there was an increase of 18,000 acres. Chhattisgarh was stationary. Berar showed a decrease of 163,000 acres (2 per cent), for nearly half of which the Yeotmal District was responsible. The decreases are all attributed to the want of continuity in the early monsoon, which checked sowings. The expansion of kharif in the Nerbudda Division is almost entirely due to the rapid spread of cotton cultivation in Nimar, induced by the prevalence of high prices. The rabi areas of the Central Provinces and Berar taken together show an increase of 568,000 acres, which was shared by all districts except Jubbulpore, Nimar, Buldana and Yeotmal. The increase of 315,000 acres in Chhattisgarh was due to the increase in double cropping. In the Jubbulpore Division the heavy rain received late in the year was very favourable to rabi sowings, and the Saugor district alone added 66,553 acres to the rabi area of the preceding year. In the Nagpur Division, the Chanda District showed a large extension of rabi crops, due to linseed, the high price of which has brought it into favour.

Yield of the autumn (kharif) crops

230. *Rice.*—The area under rice in the Central Provinces rose by 91,000 acres or 2 per cent. The great bulk of the rice in the Provinces is produced in Chhattisgarh and in the Wainganga Districts, Balaghat, Bhandara, Chanda and

parts of Nagpur and Seoni. The rainfall was abundant in these tracts. Transplanted rice did well. For the Central Provinces as a whole the outturn of broadcast and transplanted rice amounted to 108 and 107 respectively, against 105 and 109 in the previous year.

Juar.—Juar which is largely grown along with arhar and urad occupied 1,582,000 acres in the Central Provinces or 181,000 acres (10 per cent) less than the previous year. In Berar the juar area contracted by 141,000 acres or 6 per cent. Except in Nimar and the Berar Districts, where the monsoon was not favourable to the production of a good crop of juar, the crop was as good as that of the preceding year.

Cotton.—In the Central Provinces the area sown with cotton increased by 101,660 acres (7 per cent) beyond that recorded in the preceding season. The area sown in Berar was 3,243,936 acres or 2 per cent more than that of previous year. There were slight decreases in Akola, Chanda and Narsinghpur, among the more important cotton-growing districts, due to the young plants drying up. The area given to long stapled varieties of cotton in the Provinces has declined from 160,506 to 138,006 acres. But for the want of timely rain in September and October with clear weather at the end of November there would have been a bumper crop.

Til.—The total area cropped with til was 886,411 acres or 7,680 less than last year. The seasonal conditions for til were comparatively favourable in the Mandla, Betul, Chhindwara, Wardha, Nagpur, Chanda and Bhandara Districts, where the outturn ranged from 100 to 110. In the remaining districts the yield was between 75 and 95 per cent of a normal crop. For the Central Provinces and Berar together the produce stood at 90, a figure only slightly lower than that of last year.

Wheat.—The area under wheat and wheat gram in the Central Provinces stood at 3,531,107 acres, which exceeds the previous year's figure by 35,000 acres or 2 per cent. In Berar the wheat area decreased by 34,000 acres (10 per cent), as a result partly of the scanty rainfall and partly of the increase in linseed cultivation. The season was generally favourable to the wheat crop, but the abnormal conditions which prevailed in February reduced the ultimate yield. Only Amraoti had a full crop (120). The outturn in the Damoh, Saugor, Hoshangabad, Betul, Wardha, Nagpur, Drug and Raipur Districts ranged from 100 to 113 in American notation. Rust and hail did considerable damage in Seoni and the final outturn was there estimated at only 50 per cent of normal. In the remaining districts the yield did not exceed 90 in American notation, at which figure the general crop harvested in the Central Provinces and Berar as a whole was also estimated.

Linseed.—The area under linseed in the Central Provinces was 1,746,329 acres, or 70 per cent more than in the preceding year. In Berar the area so cropped was 137,718 acres, a figure more than double that of the previous year. The increase was shared by all districts. Favourable conditions at sowing time, the high price realised the previous year, and the need of a substitute for early failures in cotton mainly account for the increase in area. In the Saugor, Damoh, Chhindwara and Amraoti Districts good crops of linseed were reaped. Elsewhere the produce per acre was much below that of last year, with the result that although the area sown was very much larger than before, the total estimated outturn only increased by 16 per cent.

HORTICULTURE

3—HORTICULTURE

[Report on the management of the Provincial and District Gardens of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1911-12.]

Horticulture. Provincial Gardens.

231. The season was an extremely unfavourable one in the Maharajbagh Garden, as in most others in the province. The supply of early vegetables was much interfered with by excessive rain in the early cold weather; and the severe and long continued hot season, with the usual failure of the Telinkheri aqueduct, caused serious damage to the garden, which lost its finest palm trees. It is to be hoped that the long pending scheme for the improvement of the water-supply will be shortly brought into effect. The Tharsa Farm gave a supply of vegetables which was considerable, but not quite so early as was hoped: and the lack of manure in this tract also caused difficulties. The menagerie had more than

HORTICULTURE

one unfortunate experience during the year, and proposals for placing it under the control of a Veterinary Assistant have been sanctioned. The management of the Telinkheri Garden was on the whole decidedly successful. The water difficulties that stand in the way of the Maharajbagh do not exist here to the same degree : and the appearance of the garden was satisfactorily maintained. The Botanical Garden continued to be a centre of attraction to students of botany, and received numerous additions of wild plants from Pachmarhi and other places. The Pachmarhi and Pagara Gardens again did well. The receipts rose from Rs. 4,187 to Rs. 5,345 while the expenditure increased only from Rs. 7,218 to Rs. 7,983. The gardens would be self-supporting but for the large area of pleasure grounds which they include. Among noteworthy features of the year's work are the selection of various kinds of cabbage that will grow during the hot weather, the practical eradication of the peach fly by the unremitting destruction of all affected fruit, and the great impetus given to the distribution and sale of trees, especially fruit trees of really good quality, through the agency of the Agricultural Associations.

District Gardens.

232. The year was a most unfortunate one for District Gardens nearly everywhere. Receipts fell off owing to plague ; the September and October rain injured the sowings for cold weather vegetables ; hail destroyed the crops in some districts ; the very long hot season caused loss and expense, and fodder was dearer than ever. There was a decrease of Rs. 965 in receipts from District Gardens, while expenditure rose from Rs. 29,758 to Rs. 32,345. The number of plants sold and distributed was 7,189 against 7,809 during the previous year.

4—FORESTS

FORESTS

[Reports from the Conservators of Forests of the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles, on the Forest Administration in the Central Provinces and Berar, for the year 1911-12, with the review thereon.]

Forest areas.

233. Excluding exchanges and transfers between the various classes of forests, the net result of the year was a decrease of 346 square miles in the forest area of the Provinces. In the Central Provinces proper, the A class forest increased by 39 square miles which was mainly attributable to transfers from B class of 50 square miles in Mandla and of 22 square miles in South Chanda, counterbalanced by the excision of 30 square miles in North Chanda for colonization. The B-I class area decreased by 59 square miles, principally in consequence of transfers referred to above and of the disforestment of 12 square miles in North Chanda. In Berar the area of the A class forests rose by 318 square miles, while that of the C class fell by 644 square miles. These changes were due to the Melghat settlement which resulted in the disforestment of 337 square miles, formed for the greater part of regularly settled villages, and in the transfer from areas only nominally under the control of the Forest Department of 320 square miles to the permanent forest reserves. The proposals for the disforestment of small C class areas in Buldana were sanctioned during the year, while those for the Amraoti and Akola Districts were completed. Excluding the Melghat settlement, operations in connection with forest settlements were of the usual petty description, 21·17 square miles being settled during the year and 23·935 square miles being under settlement at the close of the year. In addition proceedings were instituted for the acquisition of 7·06 square miles in Akola and Yeotmal in view of subsequent settlement as reserved forests.

Demarcation and survey.

234. The total expenditure on demarcation during the year amounted to Rs. 19,309 as compared with Rs. 21,242 in 1910-11. New demarcation amounted to 138 miles at a cost of Rs. 1,604, while there was a length of 170 miles still to be demarcated at the close of the year, this being in the new reserves formed in the Melghat. Steady attention was paid to the simplification of boundaries, many exchanges of land being made during the year with this object. The total length of boundaries at the close of the year was 36,117 miles, the percentage artificially demarcated being 90·8 ; the length of natural boundary was 3,151 miles. The work done by Party No. VI of the Survey of India in Berar comprised 317 square miles of forest with interior details on the 2-inch scale in Yeotmal, and boundary surveys on the 4-inch scale of 526·22 and 159 linear miles in Yeotmal, Akola and Buldana, respectively. An

expenditure of Rs. 1,000 was incurred on checking and clearing the boundaries of C class forests in advance of the regular survey. A number of local surveys of Forest Villages were carried out in the Melghat and in various divisions of the Southern Circle. The total expenditure on constituting State Forests was Rs. 41,584 as against Rs. 42,011 in 1910-11. Compensation paid to the Melghat Rajas amounted to Rs. 15,558.

Working-plans.

235. Although no new Working Plans were sanctioned during the year, considerable progress was made with this most important subject. The report of the special Revenue Officer appointed to examine the provisions of the Working Plan for the Nagpur-Wardha Forest Division was received and orders were passed thereon. Owing to the transfers of the officers concerned, the plans for Buldana and South Chanda Divisions could not be completed, but are expected to be finished soon. Revenue Officers were appointed to hold the prescribed enquiry in Chhindwara, Nimar and Akola, but though their work was completed their reports did not reach Government before the close of the year. The untimely death of Mr. Forbes, Assistant Conservator of Forests, caused delay in the preparation of the plan for Balaghat, but another officer was allotted to this work. A special officer was also appointed for the Melghat Plan, while the Divisional Officers of Raipur, Amraoti and Yeotmal did what they could to push on with the preparation of the Working Plans required for these Divisions. Of the total forest area of 21,038 square miles, plans were sanctioned for an area of 9,570 square miles, of which plans for 3,037 square miles were under revision at the close of the year. Excluding this latter area, plans were under compilation for 7,010 square miles, while there were 2,440 square miles for which plans were still required, and 2,017 square miles for which plans were unnecessary. The provisions of existing Working Plans were worked up to as far as possible, though it was still necessary to postpone fellings in the Bori Reserve as the export road leading to the railway was not completed. Preliminary reports for the revision of the existing plans in the Balaghat and Raipur Divisions were received from the Conservator of the Southern Circle during the year and were sanctioned by the Chief Conservator subject to certain modifications.

Roads, buildings, tanks and wells.

236. The expenditure incurred during the year on new roads was Rs. 43,984 as compared with Rs. 48,017 in the previous year. 582 miles of new roads were made at an average cost of Rs. 75 per mile as compared with 329 miles at Rs. 146 per mile in 1910-11. Under repairs the expenditure was Rs. 23,365 against Rs. 23,567 in the year previous. The question of the assistance to be given by the Public Works Department to the Forest Department in the construction of roads was settled during the year, and it was decided that all Forests roads which cost over Rs. 500 per mile should be constructed by the Public Works Department in future. The expenditure on buildings during the year amounted to Rs. 74,076 which was less than that of 1910-11 by Rs. 7,905. The decrease was confined to new works and was shared by all circles though most of it (Rs. 6,759) occurred in the Southern Circle. Of new works no less than 74 per cent was devoted to the construction of quarters for the subordinate staff. The expenditure on tanks, wells and other miscellaneous works rose by Rs. 9,745, being Rs. 46,478 in the year as compared with Rs. 36,733 in 1910-11. The total outlay on roads, buildings, tanks and wells was Rs. 1,88,196 as compared with Rs. 1,90,418 in the previous year.

Forest offences.

237. The total number of forest offences reported during the year was 8,926 which, while exceeding the average of the past 3 years by 57, was less than the number of cases of 1910-11 by 159 or 1·7 per cent. Cases of injury by fire and unauthorized grazing decreased by 118 and 195, respectively, while increases occurred under the heads of unauthorised fellings and other offences. Of the total number of cases during the year 3 per cent were taken into Court, 84 per cent were compounded, 5 per cent were undetected, and 8 per cent were pending at the close of the year. For the Province as a whole the percentage of convictions in Court was 79, or 3 more than last year, the percentages for the 3 circles being 90 in Berar, 80 in the Northern Circle and 70 in the Southern Circle. The number of cases compounded was 8,067 which was slightly less than the number dealt with in 1910-11. The average amounts realized per case

and per person were Rs. 7-8-0 and Rs. 2-11-2 in the Northern Circle, Rs. 6-8-0 and Rs. 2-2-0 in the Southern Circle, and Rs. 5-2-4 and Rs. 1-15-8 in the Berar Circle.

Protection from fire.

238. In spite of a very adverse season, the percentages of success of fire protection operations in all circles within the Province as a whole (97) were identical with those of the previous year, but the number of fires due to burning fire lines rose from 48 to 63. The area over which protection was attempted fell from 11,659 square miles in 1910-11 to 11,149 square miles in 1911-12, the decrease being mainly attributable to the correction of the returns in the Southern Circle. Practically complete success in protection was attained in Amraoti, Akola, the Melghat and Balaghat, the results being very good also in South Chanda, Mandla, Narsinghpur, Seoni and Buldana, but in Saugor and Nimar the percentages of failure were over 12 and 19, respectively. In the latter Division the conditions were unusually unfavourable for, apart from the usual difficulty in obtaining labour, the fire season extended from October until the middle of June, while the forests were overrun with grass-cutters owing to the scarcity of fodder. In the Southern and Berar Circles the cost per mile protected decreased slightly, but in the Northern Circle this rose by Re. 1, so that for the Province as a whole the cost was Rs. 10-4-7, which is an increase of 8 annas 7 pies per square mile on the figure for 1910-11.

Exploitation, sylviculture and management.

239. The areas in which the various methods of treatment were employed during the year in the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles were 40,699, 56,543 and 52,521 acres respectively, making a total area of 149,763 acres. In the Southern Circle 2,632 acres were worked under the system known as the thinning of poles which cannot be classed as a regular method of treatment, while a large proportion of the 74,329 acres under coppice with standards in the three Circles was not fully worked; but on the whole the figures showed a satisfactory increase in the areas subjected to systematic treatment as a result of the steadily increasing demand for forest produce. Although the number of cattle grazed in the forests of the Southern Circle fell by 14,928, there were increases of 112,630 and 192,393 in the Northern and Berar Circles, respectively. For the Province as a whole the number grazed rose from 4,114,154 to 4,404,249, the increase being 290,095. The grazing incidences in Northern, Southern and Berar Circles and in the Province as a whole were 2·7, 3·5, 1·3 and 2·5 acres per head, respectively. Excluding Mandla, where the Nagpur grazing rules were not introduced until the 1st July 1912, the percentage of cattle grazing free or at privileged rates was 45·6. The total value of the grazing concessions in the three circles amounted to Rs. 3,10,788. The average grazing incidences quoted above are heavy, but it is to be noted that they vary greatly, not only from district to district, but also in portions of one and the same district. The regulation of grazing with the object of securing more even distribution is one of the principal matters to which attention has been paid in the new working plans under preparation. The total outturn of major produce decreased from 32,627,467 cubic feet in 1910-11 to 32,027,104 cubic feet in 1911-12. The outturn of timber rose by 1,713,120 cubic feet, while that of fuel fell by 2,313,483 cubic feet, or a net decrease of 600,363 cubic feet in the total outturn. The decrease in the outturn of fuel was shared by all circles though the greater portion occurred in the Southern Circle. The proportion of the total outturn of major produce removed by Government agency was 6 per cent. The total value of minor produce removed from the forests during the year was Rs. 18,41,641, being an increase of Rs. 4,34,832 on the figures for 1910-11. The revenue of the year from minor produce was abnormally affected by the grass operations undertaken for the Bombay Presidency, but even if the revenue derived from this source be deducted there was still a sum of Rs. 2,08,800 in favour of 1911-12. This increase was participated by all circles. The efforts made to induce cultivators to purchase baled grass at cheap rates and so to extend the practice of stall feeding were continued in all circles. Some little success was met with in Akola and Yeotmal, but elsewhere it was a failure. It is hoped that better results will be obtained in future owing to arrangements made with the Agriculture Department for co-operation. Special operations were undertaken in all circles for the supply of grass to portions of the Bombay Presidency suffering from scarcity of fodder and the results were satisfactory.

FORESTS

Financial results.

240. Compared with 1910-11, and excluding the figures for grass work undertaken for the Bombay Presidency (revenue Rs. 2,26,032, expenditure Rs. 2,08,081, and surplus Rs. 17,951), which was an excrescence on the ordinary work of the Department, the revenue rose by Rs. 3,21,352, the expenditure by Rs. 50,523, the surplus by Rs. 2,70,829, and the percentage of net to gross revenue from 23 to 31. All circles contributed to this very satisfactory result, the recovery made by the Southern Circle from the unfortunate position of 1910-11 being particularly noticeable. The income derived from the extraction of produce by Government Agency rose by Rs. 2,13,324, a result entirely due to the grass operations but for which there would have been a decrease of Rs. 11,808.

5—MINES AND QUARRIES

MINES AND QUARRIES

Collieries.

241. The number of coal mines in active work during the year remained the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 4. The total output of coal shows a decrease from 220,435 tons to 211,614 tons during the year, but the value has increased from Rs. 8,27,056 to Rs. 8,50,477. This rise in value is mainly due to the increased working of the Mohpani Colliery in Narsinghpur, which produced nearly 52,000 tons as against 40,000 in the previous year. The larger supply from this property explains the enhanced value of the general output, for whereas coal from Chhindwara is estimated to be worth less than Rs. 3, and from Ballarpur but little more than Rs. 4, a ton, that from Mohpani stands at nearly Rs. 5-8-0 per ton. The coal mines gave employment to 2,293 persons.

Manganese mining.

242. The increase in the number of manganese mines from 25 to 29 during the year under report is due to the inclusion of four quarries which do not come under the term "mine" as defined in Section 3 (*d*) of the Mines Act, but the inclusion of which in the returns has been accepted by the Chief Inspector. The total quantity of manganese ore extracted was 342,923 tons as against an outturn of 371,397 tons in the previous year. The decline in the output is attributed directly to the dulness of the market. Although the total output has substantially decreased, its value, on the estimates given by Deputy Commissioners, works out to Rs. 16,33,000 against Rs. 16,37,071 for the previous year. For the province as a whole the value per ton is returned at Rs. 4-12-0, as compared with Rs. 4-6-6 reported for 1910, though the market value remained constant at 9*d.* per unit. Manganese mining afforded, as usual, the largest amount of employment, the total number of persons employed being 7,792.

Miscellaneous.

243. Like coal and manganese, the lime-stone and clay, &c., mined in the Jubbulpore District also showed a decreased output during the year, coupled with a rising valuation. The output is reported at 106,118 tons valued at Rs. 1,13,756, as compared with 123,614 tons valued at Rs. 82,919 in 1910. No satisfactory explanation of this rise of price following on a heavy fall reported last year is forthcoming. The number of labourers employed in the lime-stone quarries and in the mines for pottery clay, soap-stone, &c., was 3,500. The health and general physical condition of the labourers employed in the mines were good throughout the year, and the sanitary arrangements are reported to have been satisfactory. An outbreak of plague occurred at one of the mines in the Bhandara District, but received prompt attention and was quickly overcome. The number of serious accidents increased from 11 to 20 during the year, but the number of lives lost was five against six in the previous year. The carelessness of the employees themselves or combinations of circumstances which could not have been foreseen, were the chief explanations of the accidents. One prosecution was instituted under Section 20 (2) of the Act, which proved successful. A second prosecution under Section 336 of the Indian Penal Code also ended in a conviction. 137 prospecting licenses and 40 mining leases were granted, as against 175 prospecting licenses and 56 mining leases in the previous year.

6—MANUFACTURES

MANUFACTURES

Number of factories. Employees. Accidents.

244. Twenty-two factories were added to the register during the year, but the number actually working rose only from 353 to 363. Except for five new factories opened in Yeotmal, the increase in the number on the register only represented factories previously in existence which were brought under the

provisions of the Act for the first time. The total number of operatives employed increased from 39,421 to 41,838. The total number of accidents decreased from 176 to 167, but the fatal and serious accidents show a proportionately large rise from 1 and 38 in 1910 to 12 and 50 in 1911. Some of these accidents were due to pure mishap, and others to negligence on the part of the workmen concerned. In only one accident was negligence attributed to the Manager. Wages continued to rule high everywhere, and complaints are general of the difficulty of recruiting new labour at reasonable rates. There is no doubt that labour, both skilled and unskilled, has never been in a stronger or more prosperous position in these Provinces.

245. The number of prosecutions on all accounts was 22, of which 15 resulted in convictions. The corresponding figures for 1910 were 34 and 29. The total number of inspections rose from 1,512 to 1,593, of which 613 were made by the Provincial Inspectors. The total number of factories left uninspected during the year was 36, against 24 in 1910, but only seven of these were working during the year. **Prosecutions. Supervision.**

7—TRADE

TRADE

[Report on the Rail-borne Traffic of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March 1912.]

246. The year was marked by general agricultural prosperity and continued progress. Omitting animals and treasure, the total rail-borne traffic of the year amounted to 60¾ millions of maunds, valued at 36½ crores of rupees, an increase of 5¼ million maunds and 6½ crores over the figures for the preceding year. In response to an increased demand in other parts of the world, the prices of food-grains rose steadily throughout the year; but while the average prices of rice and juar rose from Rs. 3-11-0 and Rs. 2-1-0 per maund to Rs. 4 and Rs. 2-5-0 respectively, gram only rose from Rs. 2-7-0 to Rs. 2-8-0, and wheat declined from Rs. 3-5-0 to Rs. 3-4-0. Cotton declined from the very high figure of Rs. 29 to Rs. 26-12-0, and linseed and til rose from Rs. 8 and Rs. 7-1-0 to Rs. 8-6-0 and Rs. 7-6-0. **General.**

247. The bulk of imports increased from 19¼ to 20¾ millions of maunds, or by 7 per cent, and their value from 11½ to 12 crores of rupees. The chief increases were in coal and coke, manufactured cotton goods, jute, metals, oils, salt and sugar. On the other hand imports of raw cotton, fruits and vegetables, grain and pulse, provisions, and railway plant showed substantial decreases. The increase in the value of coal imported (17¼ against 14½ lakhs of rupees) was due to the fact that of late years Bengal coal has largely tended to replace local coal for the use of private consumers The value of manufactured cotton goods, which form 25 per cent of the total provincial imports, rose from 2,68¾ to 3,07½ lakhs of rupees. The increase has been proportionately greater in the case of Indian piece-goods than in that of European piece-goods, the former having risen in five years from 23¾ to 42½ lakhs, while the latter rose from 154¾ to 185 lakhs. The rise under jute in the form of gunny-bags corresponds to the activity of the grain trade. The most noticeable point about the rise of 25¾ lakhs under metals was an increase of 4¾ lakhs under unwrought brass. The number of brass-makers is on the increase, and the Industrial Department is endeavouring to help them by introducing improved implements and extending co-operative credit among them. The rise in kerosine oil is a result of the abnormally high prices ruling for oil-seeds, coupled with the enterprise of importing firms in placing large quantities of mineral oil on the market at very cheap rates. The value of imports of tea, which is becoming more and more an article of every-day consumption among the well-to-do, especially in the west of the Province, rose from 1½ to 2¾ lakhs—an interesting indication of the rise in the standard of comfort. **Imports.**

248. The bulk of exports increased from 36¼ to 40 millions of maunds, or by 11 per cent, and their value from 18½ to 24½ crores of rupees. The principal increases were under raw cotton, fodder, grain and oil-seeds; while dyes and tans, metal and mineral substances showed substantial decreases. Exports of raw cotton, which formed 52 per cent of the total exports of the Province, increased in bulk from 2¾ to 5¼ million maunds, and in value from 8,82 to 12,73 lakhs of rupees. Owing to the fact that prices are governed by the outturn of **Exports.**

America, the fluctuations in the value of exports are liable to be violent; and in the present case the volume was swollen by the comparatively large proportion of the 1910-11 crop which was held up in the hopes of a rise in prices, and exported late in the season. Grain exports increased from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $10\frac{1}{2}$ million maunds, the increase occurring under all heads. A rise of half a million maunds under gram and pulse is said to be due to the increasing demand for gram as an ingredient in patent foods. Though the area under rice (4,832,047 acres) is little less than one-half that of Burma, the external rice trade of the Provinces has entirely lost its importance since the transfer of Sambalpur to Bengal, exports in 1910-11 amounting to less than three-quarters of a million maunds. Last year, however, the bulk expanded to over $2\frac{1}{4}$ millions. The volume of the internal rice trade has always maintained a high level, the demand coming chiefly from Berar and Jubbulpore. Exports of wheat amounted to $5\frac{1}{2}$ million maunds, against $3\frac{3}{4}$ millions in the previous year. Exports of oil-seeds increased from $5\frac{1}{4}$ to 7 millions of maunds, and the increase, which is due to the rise in the price of oil-seeds all over the world, shows no signs of diminishing. The trade, though no doubt of immediate benefit to cultivators, is less advantageous to the country than the local manufacture of the seeds into oil and cake would be. There has also been a large increase in the exports of *ghi*, and the rise in price and deterioration in quality of this necessary article has caused much hardship to the poorer house-holders in towns. It is stated that much of the *ghi* imported into the Provinces from Bombay is of inferior quality and largely adulterated. Exports of manganese declined in bulk from 519,000 to 254,000 tons, and in value from $1,05\frac{3}{4}$ to $51\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs. Only a portion of this diminished quantity was actually shipped, much of it being allowed to lie in the docks at Bombay owing to the high freights, which were almost 50 per cent above the normal.

PUBLIC WORKS

8—PUBLIC WORKS

[Administration Report on the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department for 1 11-12.]

249. The allotment for the year was Rs. 63,64,940, of which Rs. 71,900 was for Imperial works, Rs. 54,71,000 for Provincial works, and Rs. 8,22,040 for Contribution works. The expenditure under Imperial works was Rs. 56,200, under Provincial works Rs. 54,44,270, and under Contribution works Rs 5,03,239.

Imperial works.

250. The construction of a new Post Office at Nagpur was commenced in December, 1911, the expenditure incurred being Rs. 20,107. The only other works of importance were a new Railway Mail Service Office at Itarsi, a new Post Office at Bemetara, and the enlargement of the Post Office at Katni-Murwara. Estimates were sanctioned for enlargements to the Pro-Cathedral Nagpur, which are being carried out departmentally.

Provincial works.

251. The expenditure on Provincial works was divided as follows:—

		Rs.
Original works	...	24,37,247
Maintenance	...	19,60,862
Establishment	...	9,59,807
Tools and Plants	...	1,30,638
Suspense	...	44,284
Total	...	54,44,270

The principal works carried out are detailed below.

Buildings.

252. A bungalow for the Forest Divisional Officer at Saugor was commenced, Rs. 14,921 being spent. One and a half lakhs were spent on Land revenue buildings, the tahsilis at Patan, Sausar and Bhaisdehi being completed at an average outlay of Rs. 35,000 per building. Rs. 44,217 was spent on the three new tahsilis at Katol, Bhandara and Balapur. New tahsilis were commenced at Khurai and Amarwara, and improvements to the tahsilis at Baihar and Rehli where carried out. A new Settlement Office was commenced at Saugor, Rs. 35,739 was spent on Excise buildings, and Rs. 69,897 on residences for the Local Administration and Secretariat Offices. The ball-room and supper-room, at the Residency, Pachmarhi, were completed, and extensions were carried out

in the stables, elephant-shed, and motor-house. The Litho and Ferro Press building for the Public Works Department at Nagpur was completed at a cost of Rs. 9,584. The installation of electric lights and fans in the Secretariat was completed at a total cost of Rs. 63,550.

253. Expenditure for the Agricultural Department was Rs. 58,937. The works in hand were the Agricultural Laboratory at Nagpur, which was retarded by the appearance of cracks in the plinth, an Experimental Farm at Adhar Tal, and enclosures to the carnivora cages in the Maharaj Bagh. The demands of the Educational Department amounted to Rs. 2,65,116. Now that the Government of India gives special grants annually for expenditure on education, the necessity for a complete programme of construction has come prominently to notice. Rs. 21,977 was spent on the new Normal School and Practising School at Nagpur. The conversion of the old Residency building into the Morris College was completed at a cost of Rs. 16,298, and the hostel was nearly completed. The construction of a new Government Training College at Jubbulpore was completed at a cost of Rs. 34,847 ; a laboratory and hostel were also under construction. Additions and alterations were carried out to the High School buildings at Hoshangabad, Kamptee and Amraoti. The construction of a School of Handicrafts with a hostel at Nagpur was commenced.

254 The expenditure under Law and Justice was Rs. 2,18,494. New Civil Court-houses were started at Saugor, Jubbulpore, Seoni, Chhindwara, and Raipur, and the Court-houses at Khandwa and Buldana were completed. The conversion of the Circuit-house at Yeotmal into a Civil Court was completed. Quarters for Extra-Assistant Commissioners were built or building at Nagpur, Akola, Buldana, Bilaspur, and Mandla. Rs. 15,990 was spent on the laying of a main pipe from the Gorewara High Level water-works to the Central Jail, Nagpur. The expenditure on Police buildings was Rs. 3,37,981. Rs. 88,360 was spent on 8 new station-houses and quarters which were completed. Eight other station-houses were under construction during the year, and three more were started. An outlay of Rs. 23,762 was incurred on alteration and improvements to the Kotwali at Khandwa. The programme of Police construction was very heavy, and proved a serious tax on the resources of the department.

255. The expenditure on communications was Rs. 23,90,129. Of this sum Rs. 8,79,926 was spent on original works and the balance on repairs. The important lines of road communication under construction during the year were Nagpur-Amraoti, Baihar-Topla, Chanda-Allapilli-Sironcha, Dindori-Amarkantak, Badnur-Ellichpur, Saugor-Cawnpore and Drug-Gunderdehi-Balode. Work was also started on the Dhamtari-Sehawa road, which will open up valuable forests, and on the Bamhni-Anjania road, which will link up the important market at Bamhni with the Mandla-Bilaspur road. Good progress was made on the construction of bridges which will render some of the more important roads passable for traffic throughout the year. It will probably be desirable in the near future to undertake the construction of bridges to a greater extent, so as to keep all important points of communication open, and to restrict the construction of new roads to those that are absolutely necessary. The expenditure on arboriculture for roads was Rs. 62,846. Communications.

256. With the exception of some branch mains, the Gorewara Water-works scheme at Nagpur was completed, the total cost being 9,80,000. The Ambajhiri lake will in future give the low level or gravitation supply to the City, the High level system, or pumped supply, which provides for the Civil Station and the higher portion of the City, drawing its supply from Gorewara. The Harda Water-works, which cost Rs. 1,18,322, were completed, and work was carried out on the existing water-works at Burhanpur, Hinganghat, Seoni and Khandwa. Projects for new water-works, or addition to the existing supply, at 11 large towns, were under consideration. Drainage schemes were drawn up for Nagpur (including a subsidiary scheme for the Secretariat and other Government offices), Wardha, Akola and Khamgaon. Schemes for eight other towns were under preparation. Sanitary works.

257. An expenditure of Rs. 24,969 was incurred on laying a cast-iron main pipe and branches from the Telinkheri Tank to the Maharaj Bagh. The construction of the Khimlasa-Malthone road for the Saugor District Council was continued, the outlay being Rs. 22,748. The construction of the Raja Gokuldas Dharmsala at Jubbulpore was completed, the total cost being Rs. 34,554. Miscellaneous.

IRRIGATION

9—IRRIGATION

[Brief Note on Irrigation work done in the Central Provinces during the year 1911-12 for the Irrigation portion of the Public Works Department Annual Administration Report and Statistics of British India, Part III—Commercial Series.]

Area under Irrigation.

258. The area irrigated during the year was 28,319 acres against 25,356 in the preceding year. The monsoon set in early and gave abundant and well distributed rain throughout the Province. These rains filled the village tanks in the commanded area of Government works, and during the short breaks helped the cultivators to dispense with canal irrigation to a considerable extent, while no break was long enough to do serious harm to the rice crop, even though no water was taken. The cold weather rainfall also was mostly sufficient, and but little wheat was irrigated.

Major works.

259. The Major Project for the Mahkari Tank is under preparation and is now nearly ready. The submission of the Dharwara Major Project is awaiting the opinion of the Revenue Officers. Projects for Kattanjheri, Chorkamara and Bodalkasa were submitted for sanction during the year to the Government of India and the first two of these have been sanctioned for construction. A further programme for investigation of works in the tracts which still need protection is under consideration. Pangoli in Bhandara, and Neora and Kumbari in Raipur District have been reconnoitred, and appear likely to be useful projects. Under the instructions of the Government of India, the Bilaspur District has still not been touched. There is yet a good deal of scope for extending protection and even obtaining works likely to prove productive.

260. Orders to start work on the Mahanadi and Wainganga Canals were received at the close of the year, so preliminary work only could be done during the year on these works, as also on the Kattanjheri Tank. Progress was not very satisfactory on Jamunia and Naleshwar Tanks. Except the Inspection Bungalows and one or two small channels, the Ramtek work is now complete. Chandpur Tank extensions have been practically completed, and those at Khairbanda are nearing completion. Work on the Asola-Mendha and Ghorajheri Tanks was pushed on, and both these are now approaching completion. Some work still remains at Khairi, though the tank itself and the irrigation channels are complete and in operation. Progress was slow on the Tardula Canal. This is attributed by the Superintending Engineer to scarcity of labour and to difficulties experienced in constructing the puddle trench through deep sand in the river bed. He hopes that this difficulty has now been overcome, and that work will be able to go ahead as fast as the labour supply available will permit. Wara and Rumal Tanks are complete, and completion reports have been submitted. The Barera Kalan Tank is also nearing completion.

Expenditure.

261. The grant and expenditure on various fund heads was as below :—

Head of account.	Grant. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.
'35' Protective Irrigation Works ...	16,50,000	16,56,677
'42' Major Works	40,000	34,032
'49' Productive Irrigation Works ...	3,25,000	3,39,569
'43' Minor Works	6,00,000	5,35,221
Deposits contribution	12,850	3,261

Revenue.

262. The water-rates in Chhattisgarh were raised from Rs. 1-12-0 and Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 2 and Rs. 3, respectively, for agreement and non-agreement villages. In Bilaspur and Seoni the rate was fixed at Re. 1, and in Chanda at Rs. 2-8-0 per acre. The total revenue demand for Major and Minor works taken together was Rs. 80,926. A sum of Rs. 80,579 was actually collected during the year. Besides this, a sum of Rs. 10,818 was credited for the first time on account of enhancement of land revenue, due to the existence of irrigation works.

General.

263. The colonization of the areas commanded by tanks in the Chanda District and the Baihar Tahsil presents many difficulties. In the former, a large area under Ghorajheri has been taken up for cane cultivation by a European Firm who intend starting a central sugar factory. This may induce others to take up land. The labour demand for manganese mines in the Balaghat District is said to check colonization in the Baihar Tahsil. The Agricultural Department has continued demonstration work in Chhattisgarh, and has started Experimental Farms under Ramtek and in Chanda District. Much has been done, but there is still a great need for the spread of these demonstrations to places not yet touched.

CHAPTER V

REVENUE AND FINANCE

[Further details and statistics will be found in Part IV (5) of the Statistics of British India.]

GROSS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

264. The following statement compares the receipts and expenditure and closing balances under the various heads for the years 1910-11 and 1911-12:— **Gross Revenue.**

Heads.	Receipt.		Expenditure.		Closing balance.	
	1910-11.	1911-12.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1910-11.	1911-12.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Revenues ...	1,09,19,298	1,06,41,688	62,98,058	62,44,274	...	...
Provincial Revenues ...	2,44,46,065	2,70,67,515	2,41,65,509	2,58,56,989	27,72,214	39,82,740
Deposit of Local Funds—						
District Funds ...	24,46,292	27,01,833	22,11,586	23,71,555	11,09,386	14,39,664
Jaglia Funds ...	5,18,182	5,25,352	5,19,645	5,24,171	2,93,111	2,95,292
Other Local Funds ...	8,72,347	9,03,416	8,66 875	8,37,990	3,73,494	4 38,920
Municipal Funds ...	22,07,283	22,20,203	21,91,809	22,55,736	7,38,640	7,03,107
Total ...	4,14,09,467	4,40,61,007	3,62,53,482	3,80,90,715	52,86,845	68,59,723

REVENUE AND FINANCE—IMPERIAL

265. The Imperial Revenue and Expenditure for 1911-12 was less than that of 1910-11 by Rs. 2,77,610 and Rs. 53,784, respectively. The heads under which striking differences occur are given in the following table:— **Imperial Revenue.**

Revenue.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1910-11.	1911-12.		1910-11.	1911-12.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue ...	90,65,564	92,93,930	Excise ...	1,38,043	72,464
Adjustment ...	—61,66,500	—42,20,845	Forest ...	7,94,766	...
Stamps ...	17,62,105	16,80,233	General Administration ...	1,34,516	1,69,943
Excise ...	37,94,328	22,78,131	Scientific, &c. ...	46,653	1 45,475
Customs ...	2,07,818	2,52 415	Protective Works ...	11,42,069	16,59,546
Assessed taxes ...	3,2-,069	3,52,820	Irrigation ...	2,60,847	3,21.357
Forest ..	10,57,113	...	Civil Works ...	8,26,326	9,15,343
Civil Works ...	28,083	1,42,315	Other heads ...	29,54,838	29,60,146
Other heads ...	8,45,718	8,62,589			
Total ...	1,09,19,298	1,06,41,788		62,98,058	62,44,274

REVENUE

266. LAND REVENUE—*Imperial share one-half.*—The increase is due to enhancement of the Normal demand "consequent on the completion of settlements in certain districts." The reduction under adjustment is due to the introduction of the new permanent settlement with effect from the year under report and was made in lieu of the provincialization of one-fourth of the Revenue and Expenditure under Excise and half under Forest and of the treatment of Income Tax recovered in the Public Works Department as divided instead of wholly Imperial.

STAMPS.—Decrease due to the Revenue of 1910-11 having included receipts on account of special mortgage suits due to the Limitation Act of 1908.

EXCISE.—The reduction of the Imperial share from one-half to one-fourth under the revised settlement accounts for the decrease.

CUSTOMS.—The successful working of the mills in certain districts on account of excellent cotton crops contributed towards the increase.

ASSESSED TAXES.—The improvement of the method of taxation sanctioned by the Local Administration in 1911-12 accounts for the increase under this head.

FOREST.—The whole revenue under this head has been provincialized under the revised settlement.

CIVIL WORKS, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.—Increase occurred in Central India due to recovery in 1911-12 from the Gwalior Durbar of the sale proceeds of certain buildings sold to the Maharaja.

EXPENDITURE

267. EXCISE.—Please see remarks under receipts above.

FOREST.—The expenditure under this head is wholly treated as Provincial under the revised settlement.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.—The increase is due to the amalgamation of the Civil and Public Works Accounts Offices and illumination of Imperial Buildings during the Royal Visit.

SCIENTIFIC.—Increased expenditure on Census Operations and the deputation to this Province for training of two officers of the Civil Veterinary Department during the year accounts for the increase.

CONSTRUCTION OF PROTECTIVE WORKS.—The increase is chiefly due to very large outlay on the Tandula Canal.

MAJOR WORKS—INTEREST ON DEBT.—The increase is due to proportionate increase of interest on the Capital outlay.

CIVIL WORKS, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.—The inception of new works in Central India and the outlay on construction of Jail and Police buildings in Secunderabad account for the increase.

REVENUE AND FINANCE—PROVINCIAL

Provincial Revenue.

268. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1910-11 and 1911-12. The details of the Major heads under which striking differences have occurred are given below:—

Revenue.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1910-11.	1911-12.		1910-11.	1911-12.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue ...	90,65,564	92,93,930	Excise ..	1,38,043	2,17,401
Adjustment ..	+61,66,500	+42,20,845	Forest ...	7,94,767	18,38,358
Stamps ...	17,62,104	16,80,233	General Administration ...	8,97,760	10,77,677
Excise ...	37,04,327	68,34,302	Police ...	32,06,136	33,45,607
Assessed taxes ...	3,06,693	3,52,820	Education ...	17,26,086	17,82,763
Forest ...	10,57,113	25,45,854	Medical ...	8,73,489	9,81,149
Registration ..	3,22,792	3,49,449	Scientific ...	4,43,936	5,63,365
Interest ...	2,52,242	2,17,167	Superannuation ...	6,76,899	7,24,164
Law and Justice—Jails ...	1,99,821	2,27,714	Stationery and Printing ...	4,50,161	3,37,129
Education ...	1,17,185	1,46,171	Miscellaneous ...	93,657	1,22,276
Miscellaneous ...	2,78,708	1,16,986	Minor Works and Navigation.	4,53,536	5,35,221
Civil Works ...	6,08,888	5,64,495	Civil Works ...	57,45,570	56,36,067
Other heads ...	5,14,128	5,13,559	Other heads ...	86,09,469	86,05,725
Opening balance ...	24,91,658	27,72,214	Closing balance ...	27,72,214	39,82,840
Total ...	2,69,37,723	2,98,39,829	Total ...	2,69,37,723	2,98,39,829

Almost all the larger departments and services show an increase in expenditure which is attributable to the continued development of the Departments.

REGISTRATION.—The increase is due to the rise in the volume of Registration business in Berar.

INTEREST.—Continued liquidation of the outstanding loans which was heavy in 1910-11 accounts for the decrease.

LAW & JUSTICE—JAILS.—The increase is due to larger sales of Jail manufactured articles.

EDUCATION.—Increase is chiefly the result of enhancement of school and college fees and the introduction of a system of levying fees for games.

MISCELLANEOUS.—The high figures in 1910-11 were partly due to sale of weavers' famine relief cloth and partly to 'unclaimed deposits' being abnormally high during that year.

CIVIL WORKS, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.—The out-put of coal from the Ballarpur Colliery in 1911-12 was not up to the standard of the previous year and this accounts for the decrease.

EXPENDITURE

269. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.—Expenditure incurred on the Royal Visit though partially counterbalanced by savings under Establishment of the "Civil Secretariat" accounts for the increase.

POLICE.—The increase is chiefly due to Royal Bonus and the gradual filling up of the sanctioned scale.

EDUCATION.—The increase is due to (1) conversion of the Training School at Jubbulpore into a Training College, (2) larger grants paid for Municipal and Local Schools, (3) provincialization of certain High Schools, and (4) payment of the Royal Bonus.

MEDICAL.—Increase due to (1) adjustment of Rs. 37,000 made on account of purchase of quinine on the alteration of the system of accounting for it, (2) increased expenditure under salaries of District Medical Officers, and (3) grants for dispensary buildings and for Medical purposes and Sanitation.

SCIENTIFIC, &c.—Increase due to (1) opening of new farms and dairies in the Agricultural Department, (2) large expenditure incurred in purchasing anti-rinderpest serum, and (3) employment of a whole-time Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies throughout the year 1911-12.

SUPERANNUATION.—The continued growth of the pension list accounts for the increase.

STATIONERY AND PRINTING.—Increase due to large expenditure incurred on the purchase of plant and furniture for Government Presses, and to the debit in 1911-12 of certain articles of Stationery supplied from Central Stores indented for in the years 1907, 1908 and 1909.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Payments of land compensation and grants to Municipalities for General purposes and to the Nagpur Municipality for Nazul surplus premia, account for the increase of expenditure under this head.

MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.—Increase is due to the arrangements made for the completion of certain minor irrigation works during 1911-12.

CIVIL WORKS, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.—Decrease is due to (1) charges of Public Works Accounts Office being excluded from the Provincial accounts with effect from 1st April 1911, (2) adjustment in 1911-12 of the amount debited to suspense in 1910-11 on account of expenditure incurred in excess of the contribution on behalf of the Nagpur Municipality for the Gorewara Water-works, and (3) less outlay on working the Ballarpur Colliery owing to small output of coal.

CHAPTER VI

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

270. An account of the above subject will be found on pages 40—43 of the Administration Report, 1910-11.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

2—BIRTHS AND DEATHS

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1911, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

System of registration.

271. No definite change was made during the year in the system of registering vital statistics, except that in some Municipal towns *dhais* were engaged as an additional reporting agency.

Births.

The total number of births registered during the year was 688,432 as against 663,400 during the preceding year. The ratio of births per mille of population was 49·47, which was higher than that recorded in any other province in India. In spite of the ravages of plague, the births registered exceeded the deaths by 14·80 per mille. Nimar recorded the highest birth-rate for the year, namely, 54·63, while the returns of Mandla showed the lowest rate, 44·59. Taking the actual number of births into consideration, almost all the districts recorded an excess of births over the figures of 1910.

Deaths.

272. The climatic features of the year were favourable to health, and these healthy conditions were reflected in the total number of deaths registered, which fell from 537,252 to 482,497. As in the preceding year, deaths among infants and children contributed more than half of the total mortality. This waste of infant life cannot be sensibly abated by any expenditure on measures of public sanitation that is within the means of Government. The inculcation of even the first principles of domestic hygiene into Indian households is unavoidably a slow process. It will quicken with the spread of female education, and in the meantime any measure that makes for the enlightenment of Indian women is deserving of encouragement.

Chief diseases.

273. A marked fall in the mortality from cholera (5,316 to 2,998) and that from small-pox (2,794 to 1,714) was a satisfactory feature of the year, especially when it is remembered that the prevalence of plague hampered vaccination operations in the cities of Nagpur and Jubbulpore, and in many other towns and districts. Plague, if slightly less virulent than in the preceding year, was more wide-spread, and extended to rural tracts which, owing to their remoteness from urban centres or lines of communications, had hitherto escaped infection. The number of deaths due to fevers fell from 256,492 to 234,489, and malaria was not present to any great extent. There was also a marked decrease in the mortality from bowel diseases in the Berar districts and in Wardha.

Special measures.

274. The progress made with plague inoculations, which rose from 32,798 in 1910 to 60,504 in 1911, was very marked. In past years rat destruction was pushed on vigorously in many Municipalities, but during the last year or two systematic rat compaigns have not been so numerous, the Sanitary authorities considering that the practical results were hardly commensurate with the efforts involved. A campaign against rats was carried out on a large scale in the city of Nagpur, but it appears to have been inconclusive. It has long been the practice in these Provinces to warn the headmen of villages within travelling distance of affected areas of the appearance of an epidemic and to advise them to refuse admission to refugees from infected centres until they have spent the period of incubation outside the village This advice,

is as a general rule readily acted upon, and it is a question for further consideration whether it would be of material advantage to adopt the Punjab regulation which, while authorising villagers to enforce quarantine by threat of legal penalties, leaves it to the headmen to take the initiative in protecting his village. A very satisfactory start was made with the new system for selling quinine.

3—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

275. The most prominent feature of the district reports on emigration to Assam is the conspicuous failure of the figures of recruitment to make an advance in any degree proportionate to that shown by the numbers of the recruiting staff. The total number of all classes of recruiting agents employed in the Central Provinces during the year under review rose from 3,189 to 4,177, but they only succeeded in raising the number of labourers recruited from 4,500 to 4,649. Recruitment by contractors is chiefly carried on in the Jubbulpore District, where the increase in their number is attributed to the prospective withdrawal of the labour districts provisions of the Act from the districts of the Assam Valley where they are still in force. Strenuous efforts were in consequence made to obtain coolies from this centre. A very large proportion of the recruits is obtained from the adjoining Native States of Central India, where recruitment is not looked upon with favour by the ruling Chiefs. An examination of the figures in greater detail leads to the inference that it is not the provisions of any special Act that will now secure for the Tea gardens the labour they require, but that its supply must depend on the conditions under which it is employed. It can no longer be urged that labour in these Provinces is immobile, or that the local coolie will not move to meet a demand for labour until, as in past years, literally starved into activity; on the contrary he is to be found in the dockyards of Calcutta, in the coal-fields of Jheria and Raniganj, and on the railways of Bengal and Assam, without any special recruiter's persuasion; new sources of employment are opening to him, his standard of living and of intelligence is rising, and he cannot now be readily cajoled by the overdrawn inducements of the professional recruiter. The Central Provinces labourer is ready to go considerable distances for work if it is made worth his while, but he has now a strong market for his services at home, to compete successfully against which foreign markets must necessarily raise their wages and increase their attractions.

Working of Act VI of 1901.

276. The working of the Act during the year has been on the whole satisfactory. The only prosecutions instituted were in the Chhattisgarh Division, where 10 cases resulted in 5 convictions.

Financial.

277. The increase in the number of recruiting agents and emigrants raised license and registration fees from Rs. 2,443 and Rs. 1,305 to Rs. 2,864 and Rs. 1,662 respectively. The total expenditure was Rs. 728, leaving a surplus of Rs. 3,798.

4—MEDICAL RELIEF

[Annual Notes on Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1911, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Number of dispensaries.

278. The year opened with 284 dispensaries on the list. Fifteen new dispensaries were opened and 11 were closed. There were thus 288 dispensaries at work at the end of the year. Of these 30 were maintained by the State, 39 by Railways, and 160 by Local Bodies, the rest being either private or State-aided institutions.

Number of patients.

279. The total number of both indoor and outdoor patients treated in the various dispensaries in the Province was 1,731,295, or 58,088 less than in the preceding year. The decrease was generally due to the general healthiness of the year, and to the prevalence of plague in an epidemic form in various localities and the consequent dispersion of the people to the fields and jungles.

Private dispensaries.

280. The number of private dispensaries rose from 52 to 54 during the year. Of the number at work at the end of the year, 22 were maintained by Missionary bodies, 9 by private individuals and 23 by Feudatory States. The total number of patients treated in these dispensaries was 313,469, or 26,078 less than in the preceding year. These institutions continued to do good work.

MEDICAL RELIEF

Relative frequency of diseases.

281. The ailments for which relief was chiefly sought were dysentery, malarial fevers, pyrexia of uncertain origin, rheumatic fever, rheumatism, diseases of the nervous system, diseases of the eye and ear, diseases of the respiratory system, dyspepsia, diarrhœa, diseases of the connective tissue, ulcers, other diseases of the skin, and injuries. As compared with last year's figures, the number treated for malarial fevers was less by 28,956, for diseases of the respiratory system (except pneumonia and tubercle of the lungs) by 17,044, for other diseases of the skin by 12,940, ulcers by 9,700, and all other general diseases by 4,018. The decrease under malaria was due to the small rainfall and to the greater care that was exercised in diagnosis. This also accounts for the decrease in other diseases of the respiratory system. Better diagnosis also accounts for the decrease under ulcers and skin diseases. Increases were chiefly under diseases of the eye, pyrexia of uncertain origin, and injuries. The prevalence of ophthalmia and conjunctivitis, which was very marked, especially in the districts of Nagpur and Wardha, accounts for the increase under diseases of the eye. The increase in the number under pyrexia of uncertain origin shows that greater care is exercised in diagnosing fevers.

Surgical operations.

282. The number of surgical operations performed fell from 43,753 in 1910 to 43,699 in the year under report. This fall was due to the general dislocation of hospital work that occurred throughout the Province owing to the widespread prevalence of plague. The number of selected operations was 2,625. Among the selected operations there were 889 extractions of the lens for cataract.

Income.

283. The total receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 8,25,838, or Rs. 57,256 more than in the preceding year. The increase chiefly occurred under Government and Municipal contributions and subscriptions. European subscriptions showed an increase of Rs. 446, while the subscriptions from Indians increased by Rs. 5,816.

Expenditure.

284. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 5,07,601 against Rs. 4,51,048 in 1910. Expenditure increased under all headings except "Bazar medicine" and "Diet." The most noticeable increase was under the head "Buildings and Repairs," which was due to the fact that balances were spent on much needed improvements instead of being hoarded.

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

5—TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

[Triennial Report on the Lunatic Asylums in the Central Provinces for the years 1909, 1910, and 1911, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Numbers and health.

285. The total population of the Nagpur Lunatic Asylum, which is the only institution of its kind in the Central Provinces and Berar, stood at 353 during the year against 396 in the preceding year, 286 were males and 67 females. The number of criminal lunatics fell from 102 to 93. The numbers of admissions and discharges during the year were 94 and 52 respectively. The daily average number of sick during the year was 18·83 as against 4·31; deaths numbered 15 as against 80. During the triennial period ending 1911 the causes of insanity were ascertained in all except 18 cases.

Expenditure.

286. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 47,073 as against Rs. 56,716. The amalgamation of the Jubbulpore and Nagpur Asylums has made for economy. In spite of the high prices of food-stuffs and additions to the diet of inmates, the maintenance charges, which amounted to Rs. 36,219 in 1908, fell to Rs. 34,890 in 1911.

Industries and improvements.

287. The chief occupation of the lunatics was employment on the farm, dairy and garden. A few were employed in cooking, weaving and cane industry. Females were employed in cleaning and grinding corn. The system of giving small money rewards to hardworking and deserving lunatics was continued and was appreciated. In the spacious buildings and grounds of the Nagpur Asylum the patients enjoy pleasant surroundings and as much freedom and amenities as are compatible with their condition. As a result of the enquiry carried out by Lieutenant-Colonel Banatvala into the high mortality in the Asylum, the medical, warder, and conservancy establishments were strengthened, and structural alterations were sanctioned. These included the improvement of the water-supply,

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

the extension of drains, the construction of concrete berths, the erection of a new kitchen, the remodelling of latrines, and the paving of wards and yards.

6—SANITATION

SANITATION

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1911, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Chief sanitary works.

288. The Gorewara tank work was completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 9,80,000, and it was declared open on the 28th November. The Harda Water-works in the Hoshangabad Division were also completed at a cost of Rs. 1,16,151. In Burhanpur the construction of galleries in the Chintaharan channel was completed in May. Special repairs to the main channel are in progress, the money spent during the year being Rs. 10,268. The waste-weir of the Babaria Reservoir at Seoni was raised at a cost of Rs. 6,285, and the Wadali Reservoir, which supplies water to the Amraoti Civil Station, was improved at a cost of Rs. 1,194. It is proposed to effect further improvement in the water-supply at Amraoti, both in the City and the Civil Station, and projects are being drawn up. The contemplated improvements to the Hinganghat Water-works in the Wardha District were taken in hand. A project for increasing the present water-supply of Akola Town is nearly ready, and schemes for providing water at Saugor, Damoh, Chanda, Arvi, and for improving the present arrangements at Wardha, are being drawn up. Only in Nagpur were drainage works in progress during the year. The whole project for the drainage of Nagpur is estimated to cost Rs. 35,51,250, of which only a part is to be done now. In Wardha a surface drainage scheme has been projected at a cost of Rs. 2,04,505, of which the Government grant-in-aid would be one lakh. In Akola and Khamgaon surface drainage schemes have been drawn up, the question of finances is being considered, and as soon as this question is settled, the work will be undertaken. Drainage projects were also under preparation for Jubbulpore, Bhandara, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Itarsi, Harda, Raipur, and Bilaspur. Out of the allotment made by the Government of India for Sanitary improvements, grants amounting to Rs. 23,971 were given to Municipalities for the improvement of their water-supplies, Rs. 2,22,244 for the provision of drainage, and Rs. 18,000 for the removal of congestion.

Municipal sanitation.

289. Various works of improvement, such as the erection of meat markets, construction and repair of roads and removal of congestion, were effected by Municipal Committees. Though a good deal of improvement was effected, there is still much to be done. During the year tentative rules and regulations were drawn up for Sanitary Inspectors in the towns of the Province, and a list of towns requiring Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors was made out. Two candidates were sent for training during the year; steps were under consideration for raising the pay of the Health Officers at Nagpur and Jubbulpore, and for appointing Joint Health Officers for Khandwa *cum* Burhanpur and, possibly, Amraoti *cum* Akola.

Rural sanitation.

290. At the close of 1910 the provisions of the Village Sanitation Act were in force in 40 villages in the Central Provinces and 16 were added to the list during the year 1911. The Act was not withdrawn from any of the villages. In all the villages under the Act the receipts amounted to Rs. 67,467 and the expenditure to Rs. 50,825. The latter was chiefly devoted to wells, cleaning village sites, drains, roads, and other improvements. In the "Town Fund" and other villages under the Mukaddam rules, the receipts during the year were Rs. 73,707, the total amount expended being Rs. 48,699. On other matters of rural sanitation, *e. g.*, wells and roads managed by the District Council, the sum of Rs. 61,829 was spent. Orders for the constitution of the Sanitary Board and for the regulations of its functions were issued during the year.

7—VACCINATION

VACCINATION

[Notes on Vaccination in the Central Provinces and Berar for the season 1911-12, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

General record of vaccination.

291. The total number of vaccination operations performed during the season rose from 654,114 to 682,177. Though the total increase in the British districts was only 13,034, in many districts a satisfactory amount was done in

spite of plague which prevailed in the Province throughout the season. Out of the 579,732 operations performed by vaccinators in British districts, 511,131 were primary vaccinations and the res were revaccinations.

Vaccination in Municipalities.

292. In Municipal towns there were in all 30,156 births and 16,734 deaths under one year of age. The infants under one year successfully vaccinated numbered 24,210, which shows that about 15 per cent of children still remain unprotected. This high percentage was due partly to the prevalence of plague and partly to a too lax enforcement of the rules. The Vaccination Act was not extended to any Municipal town during the year.

Mortality from small-pox.

293. Deaths from small-pox rose from 2,419 in 1910-11 to 2,767 in 1911-12. Nagpur, where nearly half the number of deaths (1,367) were recorded, suffered severely.

Lymph.

294. Only glycerinated calf lymph was used, and the success obtained was 96·56 per cent against 96·01 in the previous year. Information was collected during the year with a view to the formation of a Central Vaccine Depôt.

Expenditure.

295. The expenditure on vaccination in British territory amounted to Rs. 66,093 as against Rs. 62,284 in the preceding year. The rise in expenditure was due to increased cost of establishment under almost all heads on account of the appointment of Additional Assistant Superintendents, Vaccinators, and peons. The only items which showed a smaller expenditure were "Travelling allowances and contingencies." The cost of each successful vaccination rose slightly from Re. 0-1-10 to Re. 0-1-11.

CHAPTER VII

INSTRUCTION

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

296. Schools are for—

(i) General Education.

(ii) Special Education.

Schools for General and Special Education.

By special education is meant instruction in a special branch of technical or professional education, or instruction of special classes, such as Europeans, girls, Rajkumars, low-caste children, and boys in the Reformatory School.

Primary Schools.

297. The main division of schools for general education is into Primary and Secondary. All Primary Schools for general education are Vernacular Schools, that is to say, teaching in them is conducted wholly in the Vernacular, and they are sub-divided, according to their location, into rural and urban. In most Secondary Schools teaching is given both in English and in the Vernacular, such schools being termed Anglo-Vernacular; but there are a few Secondary Schools in which teaching is solely in the Vernacular. A Primary School contains four classes, each representing a year's course of study. To each Primary School is attached an infant class having generally a year's course of study. The course of study in Primary Schools is fixed by the Department.

Secondary Schools.

298. Secondary Schools are sub-divided into lower secondary and upper secondary. Lower Secondary Schools are either Vernacular Middle Schools or Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools. A Vernacular Middle School contains two classes and merely continues the course of study in a Primary School through two additional years. A Primary School which contains these two additional classes is termed a Vernacular Middle School, but the students in the first four classes are returned as receiving Primary Education. Students in the 5th and 6th classes are returned as receiving Secondary Education. Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools are of two grades. The second grade contains three English classes, in which the teaching is the same as that in the 4th, 5th and 6th classes of a Vernacular Middle School, with the addition of a course of study in English. A first grade Anglo-Vernacular Middle School contains a fourth class in addition and provides a course of study for an additional year.

Course of instruction in High Schools.

299. Upper Secondary Schools are termed High Schools. They prepare pupils for the Matriculation and School Final Examinations. They contain three classes, the course being for three years. High Schools are termed Upper Secondary Schools but may have Lower Secondary and Primary Departments.

Course of instruction in Colleges.

300. Colleges provide instruction in the courses for degrees prescribed by a University in one or more of its faculties, for students who have passed the Matriculation or School Final Examination. The course of study concluded in the Matriculation or School Final Class of a High School is carried on through four further classes, *viz.*, two teaching up to the First Arts or Intermediate standards, and two teaching up to the B. A. or B.Sc. degrees. Colleges may also contain additional classes teaching up to the M. A. and B. L. or LL. B. degrees.

Schools under public and private management.

301. Schools are divided as regards management into —

(1) Schools under public* management, that is to say, schools—

(*a*) under the direct management of Government or of Officers or Committees acting on behalf of Government or of Boards exercising statutory powers;

(*b*) in which the staff of teachers is appointed or dismissed by Government or by such Officers, Committees or Boards.

(2) Schools under private management, *i. e.*, under the management of Missionary bodies or private persons or associations of any kind.

* As such schools invariably conform to the rules, &c., of the Department, they may be called "Public schools under public management.

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Schools under public management.

302. Schools under public management include Government and Board Schools. A Government School means a school managed by Government or by an Officer or a Committee nominated by Government. A "Board" School includes—

(1) District Council Schools managed by District Councils or Local Bodies or Committees thereof; and

(2) Municipal Schools managed by Municipal Committees.

All public Middle and Primary Schools under public management are Board Schools, with the exception of (*a*) Anglo-Vernacular Schools in Berar situated within Municipal limits and all Girls' Schools, (*b*) schools in the Mandla District and in the Sironcha Tahsil, (*c*) the Anglo-Vernacular Middle School, Sironcha, the Primary School, Pachmarhi, and the Cantonment Branch School, Saugor. The public High Schools under public management are all Government institutions.

Schools under private management.

303. Schools under private management may be further sub-divided as—

(*a*) *Public schools under private management.*—These may be managed by societies or by individuals; they are generally aided, and, even if unaided, conform in their course of study to the standards prescribed by the Department or the University, and are subject to inspection by the Department and to the general rules governing schools under public management.

(*b*) *Private schools under private management.*—These, whether managed by societies or by individuals, are unaided and have not placed themselves under departmental inspection or in conformity with the rules of the Department. Examples of them are the so-called "Indigenous" schools conducted upon native methods, and such other institutions as follow a course of study (whether in English or the Vernacular) which is not in accordance with the prescribed standards or destined to lead up to any of the prescribed examinations.

Recognition by the University.

304.—Schools may be otherwise divided as "Recognised" and "Unrecognised" schools. Recognised schools include all schools under public management and those schools which are defined in the preceding paragraph as public schools under private management. Unrecognised schools include those schools which are defined in the preceding paragraph as private schools under private management. No pupil of an unrecognised school may appear as a candidate in any prescribed examination without the previous sanction of the departmental authorities.

EDUCATION

2—EDUCATION

[Report on the state and progress of Education in the Central Provinces and Berar for the quinquennium ending 1911-12, and Part VII of the Statistics of British India.]

General.

305. In 1906-07 the total number of schools within British territory was 3,112 with 217,573 pupils. By 1911-12, it had risen to 3,729 schools with 289,157 scholars. It is noteworthy that the increase was not attained *per saltum*, but represents a steady annual growth. Primary Schools for boys have been added to since 1906-07 at an almost uniform rate of 100 per annum. The increase in the number of pupils has been roughly 13,000 each year. The total number of schools has risen from 2,438 with 160,318 pupils in 1906-07 to 2,983 schools with 218,704 pupils in 1911-12. Secondary Schools for boys show more annual variation, but from 361 in 1906-07 they have grown to 379 with an increase of pupils from 42,005 to 50,780. Girls' Primary Schools have risen from 247 in 1906-07 to 297 in 1911-12, and the number of pupils has increased from 11,822 to 15,685. Girls' Secondary Schools show an advance in number from 34 to 43, with an increase in pupils from 2,034 to 2,381. The number of Arts and Professional Colleges remains the same although there have been changes in its composition. The attendance at Arts Colleges has risen from 283 to 608 and at Professional Colleges from 38 to 106.

306. A comparison of the races and creeds of pupils undergoing instruction shows a decrease among Native Christians in all classes of institutions except Colleges and Industrial Schools, largely due to the disappearance of famine conditions and the growing up of famine orphans without others replacing them. The proportion of Brahmins to other Hindus has increased in Colleges, but has very slightly decreased in the total. There is a very marked increase of Buddhists from 766 to 2,614, and of Gonds and other aborigines from 6,382 to 16,171. Low-caste pupils are slowly increasing, being now 16,231, an increase of 900. It is doubtful if the distinction between aborigines and low-castes in the returns is to be depended upon. Taken together these figures show a satisfactory increase, and a point worth noticing is the large increase in the numbers of these castes in Secondary Schools, where they have nearly doubled. Looking at the distribution of scholars according to stages of instruction, the number of pupils in the Lower Primary stage has increased by 33 per cent and in the Upper Primary by 23 per cent. Pupils in the Middle stage have increased by nearly 30 per cent and in the High School stage by 48 per cent. **Variations by caste, &c.**

307. Expenditure has increased by 10 lakhs to a total of a little more than 32½ lakhs. Colleges show the largest proportionate increase. The expenditure on Training Schools appears to have fallen by the conversion of the Training Institution into a College and its inclusion under the heading of Collegiate Education. Secondary and Primary Education each account for an increase of over 3 lakhs. The proportion between direct and indirect expenditure remains much the same; a rise of 1½ lakhs under "Miscellaneous" in the latter is due chiefly to the inclusion of hostel expenditure. Direction and inspection cost 8 per cent of the total, compared with 9·6 in 1906-07. **Expenditure.**

308. During the quinquennium the number of posts in the Imperial Service rose from 11 to 15 by the addition of one Professor for the Morris College, two for the Government College, Jubbulpore, and one for the College of Science. To the cadre of the Provincial Service nine posts have been added, raising the total from 11 to 20. These consist in additions to the staff of the College of Science, the creation of posts in the new Training College, and the appointment (temporary) of three Assistant Inspectors. In all Divisions the work of the Inspector grows heavier both by the increase of schools and the demand for improved educational methods. In three Circles, Nagpur, Berar and Jubbulpore, the additional burden has already proved too great, and it has been found necessary to relieve the Inspector by the creation of a post of Assistant Inspector. The latter officer takes a share of the general work, but devotes more time to Vernacular Education, particularly in Middle Vernacular Schools. These appointments though made only a year ago have already proved their value. The inspection and administration of Girls' Schools has been carried on hitherto by one Inspectress and two Assistant Inspectresses. The task is too great for so limited a staff, especially when the difficulties of touring are considered. Reorganisation of the agency, involving increase of staff, is being carried out. **Recent changes.**

The number of colleges remained the same throughout the quinquennium, but there has been a change in individual institutions. The Science classes in the Victoria Technical Institute have developed into the College of Science teaching up to the M. Sc. degree. The opening of the Training College at Jubbulpore in 1911 has added to the class of professional colleges, and teaching is now carried up to the L. T. degree. Much has been done during the quinquennium to improve the housing and surroundings of the colleges and to provide them with proper hostels and playing grounds. The Hislop College, in itself a good building, is situated in the midst of the Nagpur City, and was oppressed by the surrounding bazar. The buildings adjacent to it have been or are being acquired by the authorities, and the college will be opened up: considerable additions have also been made to the college buildings. The Administration gifted the Council of the Morris College with the building and grounds of the old Residency and the college has been translated to a situation that is worthy of it. At the same time, a hostel has been erected in the grounds. The College of Science is still located in the Victoria Institute, but plans are being got out for a new building adapted to its growing needs.

The transfer of the Jubbulpore College has been rendered necessary by its situation and growth, and work is in hand for the erection of a fine residential college outside the City. In the case of every college there is now proper hostel accommodation and playing fields have been provided. For the former the demand increases yearly.

The political agitation that disturbed the early part of the quinquennial period died out among the students, and has been replaced by a social keenness and vigour in physical exercises that are welcome. The associations of the hostel, the societies, and the playing fields, with their accompanying discipline and moral training, are now playing a considerable part in the education of the young men. In every college the futility of turning out scholars as opposed to men is fully recognised, and the staffs are fully imbued with the new spirit that has arisen.

For Secondary Education a clearly defined policy has been laid down. Briefly, it excludes District Councils from participation in financing English Education, affirming that Primary Education must for years monopolise their resources. Municipalities are not debarred from managing schools under the rules of the Grant-in-aid Code, provided they first provide for Primary Education. Government will provide a Model High School in each district, and a certain number of Middle Anglo-Vernacular Schools in large towns, and maintain the same. Beyond this private enterprise aided by Government must do what is required. A new Grant-in-aid Code has been framed, the conditions being adjusted to encourage, but not pauperise, private managers. Fees have been raised both in colleges and schools, and a generous scholarship system has been instituted whereby 694 scholarships of the value of Rs. 20,724 are awarded annually. The administration of hostels has been regulated so that the boarders bear a fair share of expenditure instead of relying on the State for maintenance.

Turning to Primary Education the policy of the last quinquennium has been one of consolidation and improvement rather than of great expansion of Primary Schools. Many schools had to be provided with buildings, and the number, pay and qualifications of teachers were anything but satisfactory. Available funds have been spent mainly upon improvements in these directions.

Management.

309. The relations of the Department with district officers and local bodies have been throughout satisfactory. The reports on School Committees vary, but the general conclusion is that they are useful. Commendation is more general from Berar, where the power to use the income from fees, and to settle questions of discipline, and responsibility to a certain extent for the teacher's performance of his duties are highly appreciated and have produced a growing interest on the part of the members.

Primary Education—Boys.

310. Expenditure on Primary Schools has risen from Rs. 8,66,119 to Rs. 11,76,813, or by 35·9 per cent. This proportion is slightly larger than the increase in pupils, and considerably larger than the increase in schools, which is 20·7 per cent. Considerable expenditure has been undertaken on the provision of school houses during the quinquennium. The standard plans provide for simple buildings, but construction is becoming more expensive every year. With the help of the Durbar grant, however, the work of providing accommodation for established schools is well advanced. Since 1906-07 District Councils have spent Rs. 9,82,000 on Primary School buildings, and Municipalities nearly two lakhs.

Secondary Education—Boys.

311. The number of Secondary Schools has increased from 412 to 441 in the quinquennium. Of the 29 additional schools, 6 are Anglo-Vernacular High Schools, 15 are Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools, and 8 are Vernacular Middle Schools. Government High Schools now number 14 in place of 8 in 1906-07 and Government Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools number 38, an increase of 7. The total expenditure on Anglo-Vernacular Schools for boys has increased by 55 per cent since 1906-07. In particular the expenditure of Government upon its own schools has nearly doubled. Extension accounts only partially for the increase. It is due in most part to the employment of larger and better staffs.

Collegiate Education.

312. The expenditure on Collegiate Education has almost doubled since last quinquennium. Arts Colleges now cost Rs. 1,26,628 as compared with Rs. 75,184 in 1906-07. Provincial expenditure has increased from Rs. 45,640

to Rs. 1,03,841. Fees have increased from Rs. 12,533 to Rs. 29,292, which is due partly to the increase in the number of students and partly to the increase in the scale of fees. The latter has not yet had its full effect since it does not apply to students who had entered college before the new scale came into force, *i. e.*, before the 1st July 1911. From 1st March 1911 the fees in all colleges were raised by 25 per cent. The increase has had no effect whatever in reducing attendance. It has at the same time enabled the Aided Colleges to increase the pay of the salaries of Professors which were much too low.

Training Schools.

313. The opening of a Training College has been referred to above. The college entertains two classes of students—graduates working for the L. T. degree in a one year's course and undergraduates working for a Teachers' Certificate in a two years' course. The teaching of Science in schools is a difficult task and one that requires special training. A class for the instruction of Science Masters in the methods of teaching their subject has been opened for one month each year in the Victoria College of Science. It has been at work for two years and is proving most useful. Since 1906-07 the number of Normal Schools has increased by one—the Urdu Normal School at Amraoti. The establishment of a Normal School at Khandwa in the Hoshangabad Division has been delayed for long by the difficulty of obtaining buildings. At the end of 1911-12 all arrangements for opening the school had been made, and there is now a Normal School in every Division, together with Urdu Normal Schools in the two Divisions where they are required. There are two Normal Schools for Women, one at Jubbulpore and one at Amraoti. The former is doing good work and is popular. The latter does not appear to attract pupils. The progress of these institutions must naturally be slow. Two Aided Training Schools for Women have been started under Mission management since 1906-07.

Technical Education.

314. The Industrial School at Amraoti has been converted into the Berar Victoria Memorial Technical Institute. On completion of a three years' course in the Institute, followed by a year's work in a Mill or Factory, students are eligible for the Boiler Act Examination. There is also a class for the sons of artisans in carpentry and metal-work. Certain Mission bodies carry on Industrial Education, mainly for the benefit of their famine orphans. During the quinquennium 11 students were given scholarships in the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay, for the study of textile industry. Three scholarships are available yearly, and are tenable for 3 years. Last year two were awarded. State Technical Scholarships tenable in England have been given to seven students from the Central Provinces. Of these, three were for the study of mining, two for textile industry, one for tanning, and one for the manufacture of oils, fats and their products.

Law Classes.

315. Since 1906-07 the Law Class attached to the Jubbulpore College has been abolished, and the teaching of Law is now confined to the Morris College. The number of students has doubled since 1907. In 1906-07 fees were Rs. 1,265. In 1912 they had risen to Rs. 5,584. The expenditure rose simultaneously from Rs. 4,668 to Rs. 9,917.

Engineering School.

316. The Civil Engineering Class attached to the Government Arts College at Jubbulpore has been abolished. It did not prove a success. An Engineering School for the instruction of Civil and Mechanical Engineers is in course of erection at Nagpur. This will be attached to the College of Science and be under the management of the Principal of that institution.

Agricultural Training.

317. The Agricultural College is managed by the Department of Agriculture. The Normal Agricultural Class for village schoolmasters has been abolished, as it was recognised that the teaching of agriculture was beyond the scope of the village Primary School.

Scholarships.

318. Technical Scholarships have been referred to above. As the Provinces have as yet no Medical School, education is fostered only by the award of scholarships tenable at the institutions of other provinces. These scholarships are unpopular. In place of a possible of 58 scholars in 1911-12 there were only 14 at work.

Female Education.

319. Schools for Indian girls have increased from 269 to 331, and the pupils in these schools from 13,782 to 17,886. In addition to this the number of girls reading in boys' schools has increased from 5,215 to 12,118. While the demand for Anglo-Vernacular Education for girls must be slow, it is already in existence in the larger towns. A Girls' High School is being opened by Government in Amraoti, and it is likely that a similar institution will follow in the north of the Provinces. There are nine Government Vernacular Middle Schools and ten other, mainly Mission Schools. The number of Primary Schools and the pupils in attendance has increased in almost every district. The percentage of girls attending school to girls of school-going age has risen from 1·9 in 1906-07 to 2·72 in 1911-12. The expenditure on these schools has risen from Rs. 1,58,786 to Rs. 1,99,889, or by 26 per cent. Great progress has been made during the quinquennium in providing suitable buildings for Girls' Schools. The number and qualifications of the staff in Girls' Primary Schools have been greatly improved. The difficulty experienced in effecting this is great. There is, however, a growing demand for entrance into the Normal Schools for Women, especially in the north of the Provinces, and scholarships are given to girls who are likely to become teachers to maintain them through their school course.

Schools for Europeans.

320. The number of schools has fallen from 18 to 16 since 1906-07. The two which have disappeared are the Pachmarhi Convent School and St. Mathew's School at Harda, both of which were closed for want of pupils. Of the 16 schools, 11 are managed by the Roman Catholic Church, 3 by the Church of England, and 2 are Railway Schools. Eight schools teach to the High School standard, 2 to the Middle School, and 6 are Primary Schools. The total expenditure has risen from Rs. 1,27,944 to Rs. 2,21,774. The Inspector of Schools reports that the general standard of teaching has improved, and modern methods are being adopted. It is interesting to notice that while there were only 5 Anglo-Indian students in Colleges in 1906-07, there were 20 in 1911-12, and 2 others were studying law.

Muhammadan Education.

321. During the quinquennium the total number of Muhammadans under education has risen from 21,532 to 29,016. The increase in all grades of schools is above the average, particularly in Colleges and Secondary Schools. The number of Muhammadan students shows a rise in the case of College students from 11 to 33, in boys undergoing Secondary Education from 4,842 to 6,004, in girls in the same stage from 26 to 180, in boys attending Primary Schools from 15,030 to 20,713, and girls in the Primary stage from 1,623 to 2,086. The general and marked progress thus indicated has been stimulated by the meeting of the All-India Muhammadan Educational Conference at Nagpur in 1910-11, and by the activity of the Local Bodies and Conferences in Berar. During the quinquennium a Government High School for Muhammadans was established at Amraoti. An Urdu Normal School with a Practising School has been established in the same place. Further provision for the training of Muhammadan teachers has also been made in the current year by the opening of an Urdu Class in the new Normal School at Khandwa, with separate Urdu Classes in the Practising School. There were in 1911-12, 41 Muhammadans in the Normal Schools as compared with 29 in 1906-07. The Anjuman School at Nagpur has been raised to a High School.

Reformatory School.

322. In the Reformatory School at Jubbulpore the numbers have decreased from 74 in 1906-07 to 62 in 1911-12. Instruction is given in gardening, carpentry, smithery, tailoring, weaving and painting. Literary education is carried on simultaneously.

Feudatory States.

323. The report for the quinquennium concerns the same States as that for the previous quinquennium, except that Bastar, which is not now under the Agency Inspector, has been excluded. There has been an increase of 4 Anglo-Vernacular Schools and 5 Vernacular Schools. Pupils have nearly doubled in Anglo-Vernacular Schools. Pupils in Vernacular Schools have increased by 20 per cent. Expenditure has risen from Rs. 54,195 in 1906-07 to Rs. 1,10,529 in 1911-12. Buildings and equipment alone cost Rs. 24,885 in 1911-12 as

compared with Rs. 7,049 in 1906-07. The expenditure on Secondary Education has more than doubled, and that on Primary Education has increased by over 60 per cent.

There are three High Schools, of which that at Nandgaon has only recently been recognized by the University. It is a well staffed and equipped institution. There are no Normal Schools in the States, but there are five training classes attached to Vernacular Middle Schools. The inspecting staff has remained the same. In 1911-12 there were 27 boys in the Rajkumar College, Raipur, as against 23 in 1906-07, representing 22 different States and Zamindaris of the Central Provinces and Bengal. Government grants amounted to Rs. 10,735, fees to Rs. 13,409, and income from endowments to Rs. 3,814. The expenditure was Rs. 27,686, chiefly on salaries and wages. In 1909 the Final Examination of the College was recognized by the University of Allahabad as equivalent to the Matriculation Examination. In 1910 a Science Laboratory was completed. The staff remains unchanged. No changes of any importance have been made in the curriculum. The Governing Body has the question of reorganising the College under consideration. The question is an important one, as the future condition of the States depends largely upon the success of this College. Arrangements are now being made for an Indian Educational Service Principal.

3—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS IN CENTRAL PROVINCES DURING 1911-12

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

Publications.

324. During 1911-12 the number of publications amounted to 162 as against 144 of 1910-11 and 115 of 1909-10. Of these 21 were in English, 56 in Hindi, 51 in Marathi, 8 in Urdu, 11 in Urdu written in Nagri characters, 2 in Urdu written in Roman characters, 2 in Gujrati, 1 in English-Hindi, 1 in English-Marathi, 2 in Sanskrit, 3 in Sanskrit-Marathi, 2 in Marathi-Sanskrit, 1 in Sanskrit-Hindi, and 1 in Konkanim. There were 49 religious books, 5 poetical, 4 geographical, 1 medical, 8 scientific, 1 historical, 4 political, 10 under languages, and the rest dealt with miscellaneous subjects. 23 books were of an educational character.

Vernacular Press.

325. The number of newspapers and periodicals published in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year was 31 as against 27 of last year. The only papers possessing an appreciable influence on public opinion are the *Marwari*, with a circulation of 1,600, *Kartavya* 900, and *Berar Samachar* 250, copies per week. A new Hindi Magazine called the *Hitakarini* has been started at Jubbulpore with a view to providing healthy and loyal literature for students and others. It has attained a circulation of 2,000 copies per month.

LITERARY SOCIETIES

326. The number of Literary and Scientific Societies increased from 62 to 69. Almost all were subscription libraries, and depended chiefly for support on subscriptions from members. Ten Societies received grants from Government, and 11 from Municipalities.

5—ARTS AND SCIENCES

ARTS AND SCIENCES

Arts and Sciences.

327. The record of the Nagpur Provincial Museum was one of continued progress. The collection of birds is beginning to show signs of being worthy of the reputation of the Province, with its rich store of wild life. But lack of space is now making itself felt, and it will be impossible to go further with this work, to say nothing of making any attempt at exhibiting any of the larger and, from the popular point of view, more attractive specimens, unless more room is made available. In the Archæological section some Buddhist remains were received from the Jubbulpore District, the first specimens of this period possessing any real merit or interest. The preparation of a descriptive list of the exhibits and a brief *resumé* of the ancient history of the Province, with special reference to the contents of the Archæological section of the Museum, and to the more important remains in the Province generally, is well advanced and the work will, it is expected, soon be published. The number of visitors showed a substantial increase, and the Museum is rapidly taking its place as a most popular place of resort for Indian visitors. The Raipur Museum attracted only 72,222 visitors against 90,512 last year. The decrease was due to plague in the town. The efforts of the District Council to spread the use of the improved hand-loom, in connection with the Museum, seem to have had but little result.

CHAPTER VIII

ARCHÆOLOGY

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Archæology.

328. The expenditure on monuments and antiquities was Rs. 11,652. Special repairs to the tower in the Fort wall at Ballarpur were carried out at a cost of Rs. 2,183; and Rs. 911 were spent on rebuilding a portion of the Fort wall near Vithoba-Khirki in Chanda City. Certain improvements were carried out to the Markhanda and Dasavatar Temples at Markhanda, at a cost of Rs. 550, and the restoration of buildings in the Gawilgarh Fort at Chikalda were also carried out for Rs. 3,939. Some further repairs to this Fort are considered necessary. A sum of Rs. 1,938 was spent on the preservation and repair of the Mahadeo Temple at Pali, the Arbhar Temple in the Bilaspur District, and the Sirpur Temple in the Raipur District. The construction of niches for the protection of the inscriptions in the Asirgarh Fort and stone pitching for the protection of the river bank in the vicinity of Colonel Fraser's tomb at Nimbola were completed at a total cost of Rs. 267. Land compensation was paid for the Raja's Chattri at Burhanpur, and an expenditure of Rs. 1,141 was incurred on the upkeep of the Vishnu Varaha Temple at Panagar and the Kankali Devi's Temple at Tegowa, the collection and fixing of missing images at Beraghât and the removal of vegetation from the masonry of the Rahatgarh Fort.

CHAPTER IX

MISCELLANEOUS

1—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

329. The diocese of Nagpur was formed in 1903, and includes the whole of the Central Provinces, Berar, Central India, Ajmere-Merwara and all stations in Rajputana, except Mount Abu. There were no changes during the year. Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

2—STATIONERY

STATIONERY

330. The total value of stationery supplied to offices and courts from the Central Depôt, including cost of carriage as well as stationery purchased locally, has decreased from Rs. 1,30,963 in 1910-11 to Rs. 96,612 in 1911-12. This satisfactory result is due to the recent orders on the subject of the curtailment of expenditure on stationery and the introduction of the system of stationery allotments. The charges on account of conveyance of forms also decreased from Rs. 8,390 to Rs 7,224. An appreciable decrease in expenditure was also effected in the value of stationery supplied to printing presses, including cost of carriage. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 93,724 against Rs. 1,39,701 in 1910-11.

3—GENERAL—MISCELLANEOUS

GENERAL

331. There were in all 173 raingauges in these Provinces, of which 15 were observatories under the control of the Imperial Meteorological Department, 20 were maintained by the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, 15 were in the Feudatory States, while the remainder (123) were under the control of the Director of Land Records. The Chikalda Observatory was abolished in November 1911, and the raingauge transferred to the Revenue Department; a new raingauge was established at Pasan, the head-quarter of the Matin Zamindari in the Bilaspur District, while the raingauges at Darwah in the Yeotmal District and at Balapur in the Akola District were removed to more suitable sites. All except fourteen of the raingauges were inspected during the year, and all defects brought to light were remedied. Registration of rainfall.

Govt. Press, Nagpur:—No. 1340, Civil Sectt.—12-3-13—400.

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR

FOR THE YEAR

1912-13

Agents for the Sale of Books published by the Central Provinces Administration

IN ENGLAND.

CONSTABLE & CO., 10, Orange Street, Leicester Square, W. C., London.

P. S. KING & SON, 9, Bridge Street, Westminster, S. W , London.

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRUBNER & CO., 68/74, Carter Lane, E. C , London.

B. QUARITCH, 11, Grafton Street, New Bond Street, W., London.

GRINDLAY & CO., 54, Parliament Street, S W., London.

DEIGHTON BELL & CO., Cambridge.

B. H. BLACKWELL, 50 & 51, Broad Street, Oxford.

HENRY S. KING & CO., 65, Cornhill, E. C., London.

LUZAC & CO., 46, Great Russell Street, W. C., London.

W. THACKER & CO., 2, Creed Lane, E. C., London.

OLIVER & BOYD, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh.

E. PONSONBY, Limited, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

T. FISHER UNWIN, Esq., 1, Adelphi Terrace, W. C., London.

ON THE CONTINENT.

FRIEDLANDER & SOHN, 11, Carlstrasse, Berlin.

OTTO HARRASSOWITZ, Leipzig.

KARL W. HIERSEMANN, Leipzig.

ERNEST LEROUX, 28, Rue Bonaparte, Paris.

MARTINUS NIJHOFF, The Hague.

IN INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

THACKER, SPINK & CO., Calcutta and Simla.

NEWMAN & CO., Calcutta.

R. CAMBRAY & CO., Calcutta.

S. K. LAHIRI & CO., Calcutta.

BUTTERWORTH & CO. (India), Limited, 8/2, Hastings Street, Calcutta.

CALCUTTA SCHOOL BOOK & USEFUL LITERATURE SOCIETY, Calcutta

THE WELDON LIBRARY, 18/5, Chowringhee Road, Calcutta.

M. C. SIRCAR & SONS, 75, Harrison Road, Calcutta.

A. J. COMBRIDGE & CO., Bombay.

THACKER & CO., LD., Bombay.

D. B. TARAPOREVALA, SONS & CO., Bombay.

RADHABAI ATMARAM SAGOON, Bombay.

SUNDER PANDURANG, 25, Kalbadevi Road, Bombay.

RAMCHANDRA GOVIND & SON, Booksellers, Kalbadevi, Bombay.

A. J. COMBRIDGE & CO., Madras.

HIGGINBOTHAM & CO., Madras.

V. KALYANARAM IYER & CO., Madras.

G. A. NATESAN & CO., Madras.

S. MURTHY & CO., Madras.

THOMPSON & CO., Madras.

TEMPLE & CO., Madras.

RAI SAHIB M. GULAB SINGH & SONS, Lahore.

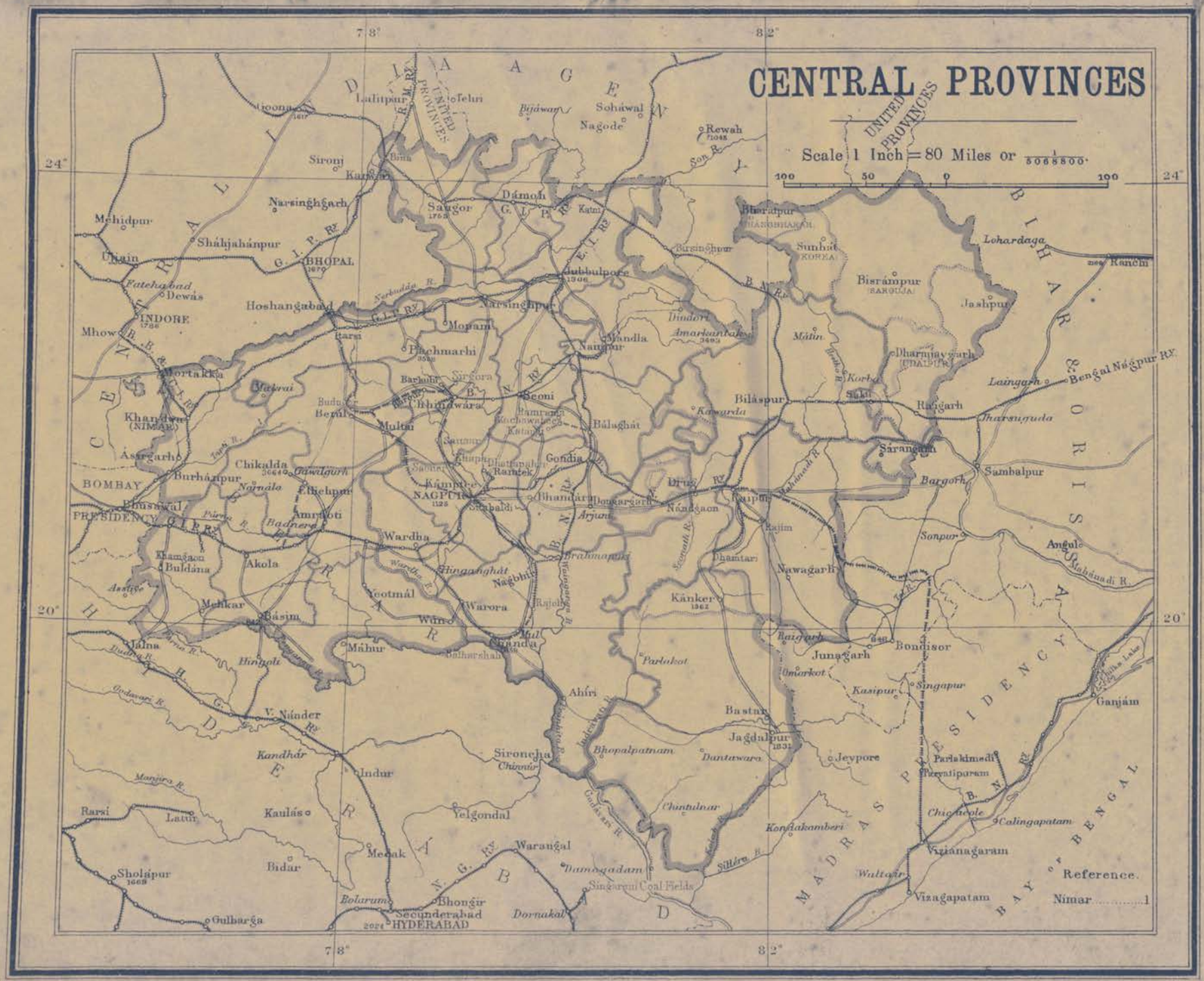
N. B. MATHUR, SUPERINTENDENT, NAZAIR KANUN HIND PRESS, Allahabad.

SUPERINTENDENT, AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION PRESS, Rangoon.

MANAGER, GENERAL BOOK DEPÔT, Nagpur and Jubbulpore.

A. M. & J. FERGUSON, Booksellers, Ceylon.

BABU S. C. TALUQDAR, Proprietor, Students & Co., Cooch Behar.


CENTRAL PROVINCES
Scale 1 Inch = 80 Miles or 1/5068800
100 50 0 100
UNITED PROVINCES
BIHAR & ORISSA
BENGAL NÁGPUR RY.
MADRAS PRESIDENCY
BAY OF BENGAL
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY
HYDERABAD
Reference.
Nimar 1
78°
82°
24°
20°
Lalitpur
Jhansi
Sironj
Narsinghgarh
Saugor
Dámoh
Rewah
Sohawal
Nagode
Mehidpur
Sháhjahánpur
Ujjain
BHOPAL
Fatehabad
Dewás
INDORE
Mhow
Hoshangabad
Narsinghpur
Jubbulpore
Mandla
Mopani
Pachmarhi
Mortakka
Khandwa (NIMAR)
Asírgarh
Burhánpur
Chikalda
Multai
Seoni
Bálaghát
Gondia
Ramtek
NAGPUR
Bhandára
Wardha
Amráoti
Akola
Buldána
Mehkar
Basim
Yeotmál
Warora
Wún
Chanda
Máhur
Hingoli
Jalna
Nándeder
Kandhár
Indur
Sironcha
Ahíri
Bhopalpatnam
Bastar
Jagdalpur
Jeypore
Kánker
Parlakot
Nawagarh
Raipur
Drug
Nándgaon
Dongargarh
Bilaspur
Raigarh
Sambalpur
Sonpur
Angul
Bargarh
Sárangarh
Jhariguda
Laingarh
Dharmjaygarh
Jashpur
Bisrámpur
Lohardaga
Ranchi
Bhaiaipur
Sunhat
Mátin
Korba
Kawarda
Dindori
Amarkantak
Bírsinghpur
Katni
Bhopal
Rajim
Dhamtari
Omarkot
Kasipur
Singapur
Junagarh
Bondisor
Ganjám
Parlakimedi
Parvatipuram
Chicacole
Calingapatam
Vizianagaram
Vizagapatam
Waltair
Kondakamberi
Chintulnar
Dantawara
Sillára R.
Godávari R.
Indrávati R.
Mahánadi R.
Son R.
Narbudda R.
Tapti R.
Wardha R.
Wainganga R.
Pránhita R.
Manjra R.
Godavari R.
Kistna R.
Sconath R.
Chilka Lake
Rarsi
Latur
Kaulás
Yelgondal
Medak
Bidar
Sholápur
Gulbarga
Bolarum
Secunderabad
HYDERABAD
Bhongir
Warangal
Dornakal
Singareni Coal Fields
Damagadam
G. I. P. Ry.
E. I. Ry.
B. N. Ry.
N. G. Ry.
Reg. No. 2789 E., 10.—800.—410.
Litho, S. I. O., Calcutta

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1912-13

PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY

Introduction.

The reports on which this review of the administration of the Central Provinces and Berar is based relate to the several different periods specified at the head of each section in Part II, and the various periods of 12 months to which the different sections of this report refer cover in all a period of 23 months, beginning on 1st August 1911 and ending on 30th June 1913.

General.

2. The monsoon of 1912 was on the whole less favourable than that of the previous year. The rainfall in the month of June was almost everywhere below the average, but in July and August there was an increase in the activity of the current which resulted in the whole of the Provinces receiving good and well-distributed rain. In September a prolonged break caused some anxiety, but timely showers fell towards the end of the month. October was practically rainless, and the early cessation of the monsoon reduced considerably the outturn of autumn crops on light soils. Heavy rain at the end of November caused damage to kharif crops in the north of the Province, and the wheat crop in one or two districts suffered to a certain extent owing to hail storms and continuous rain in the month of February. The outturn of rice and of cotton, except in the Amraoti district, was considerably below the normal, as was also that of til and linseed. The wheat crop, on the other hand, was in some districts the best reaped for many years. The price of all food-grains rose higher than in 1911 or 1910. Trade was brisk and wages ruled high, the shortage of labour being again a marked feature of the year. The condition of agriculturists and labour was all that could be desired. The year was very unhealthy, and plague, though in a less degree than in the previous year, cholera and small-pox claimed a large number of victims, the death-rate rising considerably, while the birth-rate showed a corresponding fall, the figure recorded being the lowest for eight years. A profound impression was made in the popular imagination by the visit of Their Imperial Majesties, which was attended by an extraordinary demonstration of loyalty.

Administration.

3. The office of Chief Commissioner was held substantively *pro tempore* by the Hon'ble Mr. M. W. Fox-Strangways, C. S. I., I. C. S., from the commencement of the year till the 2nd August 1912, when he was relieved by the Hon'ble Sir Benjamin Robertson, K. C. S. I., C. I. E., I. C. S., who held charge till the close of the year.

Relations with Feudatory States.

4. During the year Raja Chandra Shekhar Prasad Singh Deo and Raja Lal Bahadur Singh were installed on the *gaddis* of the Udaipur and Khairagarh States, respectively, and the Feudatory Chiefs of Raigarh and Jashpur were

invested with the title of Raja Bahadur at a Darbar held by the Chief Commissioner at Nagpur on the 13th December 1912. Certain restrictions which had been imposed on the powers of the Chiefs of Sarangarh and Kawardha at the time of their installation in the year 1910 were removed. After the close of the year the Government of India recognised Mahant Sarveshwar Das as the successor to the *gaddi* of the Nandgaon State. The rainfall was unevenly distributed, and whilst rice and wheat yielded a good harvest in the Bastar and Sarangarh States, in other States the crops were below the average. As usual the land revenue was realised with ease, except, as in the previous year, in Surguja. Settlement operations were completed in Kawardha, Chhuikhadan, Udaipur, and in certain Zamindaris of the Nandgaon State. There was again a fall in the number of crimes reported. There was a rise in the number of pupils enrolled and in the expenditure on education in most of the States.

Condition of the people.

5. Agricultural conditions were less favourable than in the previous year, and the prices of all food-grains rose higher than in 1911 or 1910. Cotton was damaged by heavy and continuous rain in July and August, and the early cessation of the monsoon reduced the outturn of all autumn crops, especially on light soils. During the months of February and March heavy rain damaged the wheat crop considerably, which up to that time had promised well. The year was unhealthy, and cholera, plague and small-pox claimed a large number of victims, the death-rate rising from 34·67 to 42·34 per mille, and the birth-rate falling to 48·24, the lowest figure recorded since 1904. Trade was brisk and wages ruled high, the shortage of labour being again a marked feature of the year. The condition of agriculturists and labourers was all that could be desired.

Realization of Revenue.

6. The total current demand on account of land revenue proper was 1,86½ lakhs, an increase of over three lakhs on the previous year. Excluding amounts of Rs. 50,455 which was remitted and Rs. 2,73,641 which was suspended mainly in the Jubbulpore, Seoni and Mandla districts, all but an infinitesimal fraction of the demand was collected with great facility. In a few villages in Berar, where an undoubtedly serious failure of crops suggested suspensions of revenue, it was found that the revenue had been paid up before effect could be given to the orders. The number of coercive processes issued continued to decrease both in the Central Provinces and Berar.

Survey and Settlements

7. The local Traverse Survey Party traversed 242 villages, and an area of 28,000 acres was traversed in the Chanda district in connection with the Asola-Mendha and Gorajheri Government tanks. Settlement operations were completed in two districts, in the Bilaspur Zamindaris and in the Melghat taluq in Berar during the year, and in three other districts shortly after the close of the year.

Land Records.

8. Further steps were taken to improve the status of the Land Record staff by raising the pay of Patwaris in three more districts to a minimum of Rs. 10 per mensem, and by modifying the grades and raising the pay of Superintendents of Land Records. The maintenance of Land Records was on the whole satisfactory and the records were filed punctually

Wards' Estates

9. There were 76 estates under management at the commencement of the year ; three were relinquished and two newly brought under management leaving 75 at the close of the year. The rental demand of eight lakhs was recovered in full and without difficulty, and the financial position, except in one estate, was satisfactory, good progress having been made with the liquidation of debt The

gross income of the estates was 21 lakhs, the income from forests remaining practically the same as in the previous year. Regular working plans are about to be prepared for the forests, and in the Bilaspur Zamindaris an Imperial Forest Service Officer is to be deputed to examine them. The total gross ordinary expenditure amounted to 12¼ lakhs of which land revenue absorbed Rs. 3,35,852, management Rs. 2,43,270 or 14 per cent on gross ordinary income, and estate improvements Rs. 1,78,459. Rs. 1,67,598 was devoted to the liquidation of debts out of current income, and the total amount of debt was reduced from Rs. 10,99,669 to Rs. 7,95,001. The degree of success attained in the cultivation of home-farm varied greatly, the greatest measure of success being in the Nachangaon Estate in the Wardha district, where the net profits amounted to sixteen rupees an acre.

Police.

10. The number of offences reported to the police was 27,654 as compared with 25,338 in the previous year, the increase being attributed to better reporting due to improved relations between the police and the people, to better registration owing to the extension of the reallocation scheme, and to greater readiness on the part of the Courts to grant compensation out of fines to aggrieved persons. Heinous crime was slightly less frequent than in past years. The police had a successful year, and a marked feature was the co-operation of the villagers with the police in their efforts to detect crime. The experiment of placing recruits under a three years' agreement has worked well, and the only recruits discouraged by it are those who have no intention of continuing longer in Police Service than it suits them. The reorganisation of the mounted force has worked well, the remount fund has been restored to a solvent condition, and considerable improvement has been effected in the turnout of both horses and men by concentration at Nagpur.

Criminal Justice.

11. The total number of offences reported rose by nearly three thousand, and the number of cases returned as true by over fifteen hundred. The number of complaints dealt with under Section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code increased by 1,169. Seventy-two per cent of cases were disposed of by Stipendiary Magistrates, the remainder being dealt with by Honorary Magistrates. The average duration of trials in all Courts rose slightly from 17·2 to 17·7 days. The number of appeals for decision by all Courts remained practically the same as in the previous year, and there was little change in the proportion of cases in which the sentence of the Lower Court was upheld. Three per cent of the persons convicted were sentenced to whipping, 76 per cent to fine and 21 per cent to imprisonment.

Prisons.

12. The number of prisoners admitted to Jail rose slightly. Discipline on the whole was good and prison offences show a large decrease. The health of prisoners was unusually good, and the daily average of sick was less than at any time during the last seven years. The ravages of dysentery which prevailed as an epidemic during the two previous years in the Raipur Jail have ceased. The earnings of Jails showed a considerable falling off. The average cost to Government of each prisoner rose from Rs. 71-8-0 to Rs. 95-3-0, almost all heads contributing to the increase.

Civil Justice.

13. The number of suits instituted fell to 100,080, the lowest figure since 1908, and the total value also declined considerably. The average value per suit instituted rose both in the Central Provinces and Berar, especially in Berar. There has been a satisfactory improvement in the pending files of almost all

Courts, and the number of suits pending at the close of the year was lower than in any year since 1907. The percentage of cases in which the decision of the Lower Court was upheld on appeal rose from 54 to 68.

Registration.

14. The total number of registrations increased by 12·2 per cent to 89,552, the highest figure yet recorded. The value of the property affected rose to 485½ lakhs, an increase of 29·3 per cent. Seventy per cent of the sales of villages and shares were in favour of agriculturists, but 62 per cent of the mortgages of villages and shares were in favour of non-agriculturists.

Municipal Administration.

15. The number of Municipalities was 56 as in the previous year. The income rose from Rs. 26,46,530 to Rs. 32,26,353, of which Rs. 5,68,939 was contributed by Government, including 4 lakhs for sanitary works. Octroi yielded an income of Rs. 9,89,534 and other taxes, Rs. 8,86,367. The actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 30,50,762, showing an increase of Rs. 1,30,246 over the expenditure of the previous year. The scarcity of water in Khandwa and Burhanpur in the Central Provinces and in Amraoti Town, Amraoti Camp, Buldana, Khamgaon, Akola, Shegaon and Malkapur in Berar necessitated a considerable expenditure on temporary schemes to supplement the existing supply of water. The Nagpur Municipality spent Rs. 3,00,510 and the Wardha Municipality Rs. 78,000 on the drainage schemes which are in progress. The closing balances of all Municipalities represent a total of Rs. 12,74,163. Fourteen Municipalities and one Notified Area were in debt to Government at the close of the year; the total balance of loans outstanding was Rs. 21,77,217, of which about 12½ lakhs was due by the Nagpur Municipality. The finances of all towns which have taken loans are satisfactory.

District Councils and Local Boards.

16. There were few changes in the constitution of the District Councils and Local Boards. The income and expenditure rose by Rs. 2,28,000 and Rs. 3,40,000 respectively. "Cattle-pounds" and "Contributions" chiefly accounted for the increase in income. On the expenditure side there was increase under "Education" and "Civil Works." The average percentage of their total income spent by the Councils on Education fell at 35 per cent in the Central Provinces and 30 per cent in Berar. The large closing balances, which in many districts have still further increased since the preceding year, were due less to the want of schemes than to defects in the arrangements for their preparation or execution. The arrangements connected with the Divisional Local Fund Engineer system were hardly sufficiently advanced during the year under report for the organisation to prove a complete success.

Agriculture.

17. The operations of the Agricultural Department were conducted during the year on lines that have already proved successful, and not much was attempted in the way of innovation. The College, as was remarked in last year's report, still fails to attract any considerable numbers of the cultivating castes. A scheme is now being worked out for selecting boys belonging to these castes from the Primary and Middle Schools and encouraging their general education by the aid of scholarships, and it is hoped that this may be attended with some success. Two new farms were established during the year, and there is reason to hope that that at Sindewahi in the Chanda district will become the centre of a great extension of sugarcane cultivation. The establishment of private seed farms for the production of pure seed proceeded apace during the year. The District Agricultural Associations are now being reformed on lines which will concentrate their work on smaller areas, a reform which should produce good practical results.

Co-operative Credit.

18. The year was one of great activity in the sphere of Co-operative Credit Societies. The number of Rural Societies increased from 540 to 1,360, membership rose from 9,516 to 22,718 and working capital from Rs. 3,78,695 to Rs. 13,38,193. The first complete year's working of the Provincial Bank was entirely successful, although, as a wise precaution, the whole of the dividend was carried to the reserve fund. The number of Central Banks increased from 20 to 25, deposits by members nearly doubled, and it is satisfactory to note, as indicating the confidence with which the Central Banks are regarded, that deposits by non-members increased from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 3,33,000.

Veterinary Department.

19. The year was marked by a prolonged and virulent epidemic of rinderpest which resulted in 25,340 recorded deaths as against 5,720 in the previous year. Inoculation was undertaken in 1,723 outbreaks, and the total number of animals inoculated was 214,304. A liberal special grant to the Province has been made by the Government of India and, as a result of this, it has been possible to make a considerable extension in the provincial programme for constructing Veterinary Dispensary buildings. The scheme which was outlined in last year's Administration Report received sanction during the year, and the establishment, when fully worked up to, will bring the annual expenditure up to more than two lakhs of rupees.

Weather and Crops.

20. The general average rainfall of the Provinces was 45·42 inches against a forty-five years' average of 48·51 inches. The area under kharif crops showed a decrease of 210,000 acres, which was due to the restriction of sowings by heavy and continuous rain in the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions. The decrease in the rabi-sown area which was in the main due to the early cessation of the monsoon, amounted to 710,000 acres, the major portion of which was in the Chhattisgarh Division, where rabi crops are largely sown as a second crop in rice-fields, and give, as a rule, a small outturn. The area under rice in the Central Provinces increased by 4 per cent, the conditions at sowing time being generally favourable to an extension. The area under cotton both in the Central Provinces and Berar, decreased by 3 per cent owing to a considerable portion of the area sown having been ploughed up, as the crop was seriously damaged by heavy rain. The area under wheat showed a slight increase, while that under til and linseed decreased considerably.

Forests.

21. The area under the control of the Forest Department decreased by 466 square miles. Of the total area of 20,572 square miles, 8,191 square miles were managed under regular working plans and new plans were in preparation for 8,862 square miles. Forest offences increased under all heads except that of injury by fire, under which there was a decrease of 30 per cent. Fire-protection operations were successful over 98 per cent of the area of 11,588 square miles over which they extended. The area subject to systematic exploitation increased by 16,715 acres. The number of cattle grazed fell by 167,000, the incidence for the Provinces, as a whole, being 2·6 acres per head, but in spite of the decrease in numbers there was a considerable increase in the revenue actually realised owing to the introduction of the new grazing rules in the Central Provinces proper. The percentage of net to gross revenue rose from 31 to 39, revenue rising by $5\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs and expenditure by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. Orders regarding the reorganisation of the establishment of Rangers and Forest Guards were submitted after the close of the year for the approval of the Government of India.

Mines and Quarries.

22. The output of coal increased by 22,000 tons, a large increase from the Chhindwara mines being counterbalanced by a decrease from the Ballarpur mine, which, since the close of the year, has been sold to a private firm. It is satisfactory to record an advance from Rs. 2-9-10 to Rs. 3-6-4 in the average price of the Chhindwara coal. The value of the total provincial output rose by Rs. 1,11,000. The value of manganese fell slightly during the year, and the output decreased by 20,000 tons to 323,000 tons. Manganese mining, as usual, afforded the largest amount of employment, the total number of persons employed on 28 mines being 6,196. The output of limestone remained practically the same as in the previous year, but the value at the pit's mouth showed a fall from one rupee to ten annas per ton; this fall was, however, more apparent than real, as the calculations last year were inaccurate.

Manufactures.

23. The number of factories rose from 363 to 479, though in Berar 49 of the 308 factories remained closed throughout the year. The increase from 133 to 171 in the Central Provinces is in the main due to the introduction of the new Factories Act (Act XII of 1911). The total number of operatives employed rose to 47,269. Wages again ruled very high, and complaints of the difficulty of recruiting labour at reasonable rates were general.

Trade.

24. Omitting animals and treasure, the rail-borne traffic of the year amounted to $66\frac{3}{4}$ millions of maunds, valued at $35\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees, the figures for the previous year being $60\frac{3}{4}$ millions of maunds and $36\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees. The decline in value appears to be largely due to a further fall in the price of cotton, the export of which also decreased considerably. The value of the imports was $13\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees and of exports 22 crores, imports showing a rise of $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores and exports a fall of $2\frac{1}{2}$. The principal increases in imports were under coal, manufactured cotton goods, raw cotton, metals, sugar, railway plant and rolling-stock, tea and wood. Exports of raw cotton which last year formed 52 per cent of the total exports of the Province, fell to 45 per cent, and there were considerable decreases in the export of wheat and oil-seeds. Increases were noticeable under manufactured cotton, hides and manganese. The export of the latter commodity rose from 7 to 15 millions of maunds, this rise being due to the general improvement in the engineering trade, accentuated by the effects of the Turkish war. Bengal coal continues to be imported in large quantities, and the reason for this appears to be that the furnaces of the local mills and gins are not capable of burning the comparatively inferior coal of the Central Provinces. The rise in the price of *ghi* referred to in last year's report continues, and it is accompanied by a fall in export as well as a decline in internal trade which appear to have been due in part to the heavy mortality among cattle during the year.

Public Works.

25. The expenditure on Provincial works rose from $54\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs in the previous year to 64 lakhs, of which 32 lakhs were spent in original works, 21 lakhs on maintenance, and $9\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs on establishment. The expenditure on communications was $26\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs, of which $10\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs was for original works. Large sums are being spent on causeways and bridges with the object of keeping all important lines of communication open throughout the year. The international system of motor-car signboards has now been introduced on all important roads.

Irrigation.

26. The area irrigated during the year by the Irrigation Department increased by over 20,000 acres, this large increase being due to the failure of the rains in the early part of September and the very light rainfall in October

The expenditure on Protective works was 17¾ lakhs, on Productive works 10½ lakhs and on Minor works 4¾ lakhs. As a whole fairly good progress was made with works in spite of the short supply of labour. The total revenue demand for major and minor works was Rs. 1,53,700 of which Rs. 1,31,750 was collected.

Revenues and Finance.

27. The total receipts under Imperial Revenues amounted to 75¾ lakhs of rupees and the expenditure to 64½ as compared with 1,06 and 62½ lakhs in the previous year. Provincial receipts were 3,72¾ lakhs and expenditure 2,74½ lakhs, leaving a closing balance of 98¼ lakhs. The large decrease in Imperial Revenues was almost entirely under the head Adjustment, and was due to additional assignments from Imperial to Provincial Revenues sanctioned by the Government of India. The principal assignments were for Education, Sanitation and discretionary grants. Almost all heads of Provincial Revenue showed large increases, except Land Revenue, the fall in which was due to suspensions and remissions and interest. The head Adjustment showed an increase of 34 lakhs, and other large increases were Stamps 1¾ lakhs, Excise 11 lakhs, Forests 6 lakhs, Miscellaneous 1 lakh and Civil Works 7½ lakhs.

Vital Statistics.

28. The birth-rate for the year was 48·24 per mille, which is the lowest figure recorded for nine years. The fall is attributed to the prevalence of epidemic disease which caused the death-rate to rise from 34·67 in 1911 to 42·34. The ravages of cholera, from which thirty-four thousand deaths are reported, were exceptionally severe. The mortality among infants and children continued to be abnormally high, the former reaching the deplorable figure of 293·60 per mille. Plague was much less severe than in the previous year, and the number of inoculations fell accordingly. An inquiry undertaken during the year into the results of inoculation showed that out of 8,807 persons inoculated, only 19 had died of plague, and even out of this small number 7 persons had been inoculated during the incubation stage of the disease when they could no longer be fully protected.

Emigration.

29. As in the previous year, the recruiting agents of all classes in the Provinces only succeeded in recruiting slightly more than one coolie per head. The number af agents rose from 4,120 to 4,560, but the number of coolies failed to show a proportionate advance, the increase being from 4,649 to 4,966. It seems clear that under normal conditions the present attractions of the tea gardens cannot compete with those of home employment. The year has seen the labourer maintain and even improve his position; in every field it is he who has held the upper hand, while the employer has had to compete for his services. It is small wonder, then, that enjoying this position at home the coolie is not tempted in any great degree to risk, for the wages that Assam offers, the vague uncertainties of life on a distant tea garden.

Medical Relief.

30. The year opened with 288 dispensaries and closed with 270, the decrease being only apparent owing to the dispensaries in the Feudatory States having been, under the orders of the Government of India, excluded from the returns. Of the total number of dispensaries, 31 were maintained by the State, 161 by Local Bodies, and 39 by Railways, these being either State-aided or private institutions. The number of patients, both in-door and out-door, again showed a decrease, the figure for the year being 1,711,270. The decrease is attributed to the prevalence of plague and cholera. The number of surgical operations performed shows a considerable increase. The total receipts rose by nearly a lakh of rupees to Rs. 9,16,051, while expenditure remained practically stationary.

Sanitation.

31. Further improvements to the Gorewara Water-works at Nagpur were carried out during the year, and schemes were sanctioned or work was actually in progress for the improvement of the water-supply at Hinganghat, Wardha, Raipur, Amraoti, and Burhanpur. At Khandwa, Amraoti and Buldana, where the scanty rainfall of the year caused great scarcity of water, grants were made by Government to cover the cost of special temporary arrangements to meet the difficulty. The Nagpur drainage scheme was pushed on during the year, a total sum of Rs. 1,23,819 being expended, and schemes for other towns in the Province are under consideration, the most important being that for Jubbulpore. The urgency of the demand for the improvement of the water-supply has led to the temporary postponement of drainage schemes. Further progress has been made by Municipal Committees in the improvement of markets, roads and congested areas. At the close of the year the provisions of the Village Sanitation Act were in force in 77 villages. This large increase is accounted for by the fact that the Act has been applied to Berar, where it has now been extended to a number of important villages.

Vaccination.

32. The total number of vaccinations performed in British territory was 574,510, a decrease of 8,691 as compared with the previous year. Under the orders of the Government of India the figures for the Feudatory States have now been omitted from the returns. Of the total number of vaccinations, 70,554 were re-vaccinations. The decrease in the number of vaccinations is reported to be due to the prevalence of cholera and the consequent deputation of the vaccination staff on Cholera duty. Only glycerinated calf-lymph was used, and the percentage of success rose to 98·29 in the case of primary vaccinations. The total cost of the Department amounted to Rs. 69,384, and the average cost of each successful vaccination rose to Re. 0-2-1. There are still many children unprotected, but the introduction of school inspections, the co-operation of schoolmasters and the more careful application of the Vaccination Act have produced an appreciable improvement in this respect.

Education.

33. The year 1912-13 may be taken as the first in which the effect of the large grants recently made by the Government of India for educational expenditure has been appreciably felt, and the advance and expansion have been rapid, more especially in the direction of Primary Education. Among the various uses to which these grants were put, special mention may be made of the assistance afforded by them to District Councils in overtaking the serious arrears of primary school building into which they had fallen. The District Councils have allowed their zeal for education to carry them into a programme of development beyond their means, and a halt will have to be called until their increased resources place them in a position to make a further advance. The policy of the Administration in regard to secondary education is that Government establishes a High School at the head-quarters of each district, not with the intention of meeting the entire demand for secondary education but to serve as a model for further schools of which the increasing demand for such education should secure the supply either through the agency of Local Bodies or of the general public. This scheme has been still further advanced during the year by the provincialization of the Bhandara High School which was formerly a Municipal institution. Much attention continued to be paid to the provision of good hostel accommodation, and an Imperial Grant of one and a half lakhs of rupees for this purpose was received during the year. It is satisfactory to record that interest in physical

exercise is steadily increasing and that the system of compulsory games is working smoothly and with good effect. The number of students undergoing Collegiate education rose again during the year, and it is clear that the number of students seeking admission to colleges will soon be greater than the accommodation available. The College of Science was affiliated up to the D. Sc. degree, and has taken over the teaching of science from the Morris College, and in certain subjects from the Hislop College. This is the first step towards concentrating science teaching in one thoroughly equipped and well-staffed institution. The Training College at Jubbulpore continued to do excellent work, and the demand for enrolment already exceeds the accommodation. A satisfactory beginning in the higher education of women has been made by the establishment of the Government Girls' High School at Amraoti and the raising of two aided Middle Schools to the High School standard. The Durbar grant has enabled the Administration to improve the agency for the control and administration of female education by the appointment of a second Inspectress of Schools and two additional Assistant Inspectresses. A separate Inspector of European Schools for the Central Provinces and Berar was also appointed, his duties being combined with those of Assistant Director of Public Instruction. The total number of Muhammadan pupils in all classes of schools showed a satisfactory increase, and the rise in the number under Collegiate education and in High Schools is a most promising sign. The number of Muhammadan girls in primary schools showed an increase of seven hundred.

PART II

CHAPTER I
PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

At pages 1 to 54 of the Administration Report for 1911-12 will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference :—

1—PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE, AND CHIEF STAPLES

2—HISTORICAL SUMMARY

3—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION

4—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES

5—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

6—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY

7—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

8—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

2. The office of Chief Commissioner was held substantively *pro tempore* by the Hon'ble Mr. M. W. Fox-Strangways, C. S. I., I. C. S., from the commencement of the year to the 2nd August 1912, when he was relieved by the Hon'ble Sir Benjamin Robertson, K. C. S. I., C. I. E., I. C. S., who held charge from the 3rd August 1912 to the close of the year under report.

9—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

[Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1912.]

Changes in the Administration.

3. During the year the mother of the Feudatory Chief of Sarangarh died, and the Rajas of Bastar and Khairagarh were remarried. Raja Chandra Shekhar Prasad Singh Deo and Raja Lal Bahadur Singh were installed on the *gaddis* of the Udaipur and Khairagarh States, respectively, and the Feudatory Chiefs of Raigarh and Jashpur were invested with the title of Raja Bahadur as a personal distinction at a Darbar held by the Chief Commissioner at Nagpur on the 13th December 1912, which was attended by the Feudatory Chiefs of Kanker, Surguja, Sarangarh, Kawardha, Makrai, and the minor Chiefs of Korea and Chhuikhadan. The Chief Commissioner was pleased to remove certain restrictions that had been imposed on the powers of the Chiefs of Sarangarh and Kawardha at the time of their installation in the year 1910. Korea was visited by the Mining Engineer and Geological Superintendent, Survey of India, with the object of inspecting and reporting on the coal-fields. After the close of the year in July 1913, the Government of India recognised Mahant Sarveshwar Das as the successor to the *gaddi* of the Nandgaon State.

Rainfall and Crops.

4. The rainfall was unevenly distributed and the outturn of crops varied accordingly from State to State. Rice and wheat yielded a good harvest in the Bastar and Sarangarh States, while in the other States the crops were below the average..

Trade.

5. Export trade was less than usual in the Kawardha State owing to the poor harvest. In Raigarh, Sakti and Chhuikhadan trade was brisk. Trade is handicapped by want of communications in Changbhakar and Korea, but a rail and road scheme is under consideration in the latter State. A lime factory was started at Sakti, and iron presses for crushing sugarcane and pans for the crystallisation of sugar have been introduced into the Sarangarh State. It is proposed to open a demonstration farm at or near Kawardha in order to encourage the growing of cotton.

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

Condition of the people.

6. The year was peaceful and prosperous except in the Kawardha and Chhuikhadan States. In Kawardha the condition of the people was adversely affected by thelpoor harvest and by heavy mortality among cattle caused by disease and scarcity of fodder. The number of deaths due to malaria in Raigarh again showed an increase. In the Nandgaon State plague continued from the preceding year but subsided in April, and at the end of the monsoon cholera appeared but was suppressed without much difficulty. There was heavy mortality among cattle in the Kawardha and Korea States. There was little or no emigration.

Finance.

7. The financial condition of almost all the States was satisfactory. The Kawardha, Nandgaon and Chhuikhadan States granted a bonus to their officials in honour of the Imperial Coronation Darbar at Delhi. The debts left by the late Chief of Korea and adjudged to be payable amount to about Rs. 33,900, of which Rs. 5,000 were paid off during the year.

Land Revenue.

8. As usual, the Land Revenue demand was easily realized in all the States except Surguja, where 33 coercive processes were issued.

Settlement.

9. Settlement operations were completed in Kawardha, Chhuikhadan and Udaipur, and in certain Zamindaris of the Nandgaon State. The period of settlement in Kawardha is fixed at ten and in Chhuikhadan at seven years, and the wajib-ul-arz was revised for both States. Map correction work was carried out in certain villages of the Sakti State and completed in certain villages of the Raigarh and Sarangarh States. Announcement was made in the Kawardha and Chhuikhadan States and in three groups of the Jagdalpur tahsil of the Bastar State. Survey in five groups in the Jagdalpur tahsil was taken up. A number of boundary disputes were settled by a special boundary officer appointed for the purpose.

Criminal Law and Justice.

10. Except in a few States there was a fall in reported crime and also in the general duration of cases disposed of by the Courts. Four additional Criminal Courts were opened.

Jails

11. The admissions to Jails were normal and the health of the prisoners was good. Much improvement was effected in the Jail buildings in the Bastar State and the construction of a new Jail was undertaken in Khairagarh. A new Jail will be built shortly in the Korea State.

Forests.

12. The increase in the income from forests in the Kanker State was from harra and lac and in the Nandgaon State from the sale of timber and bamboos. Three reserves were established during the year in the Bastar State. The duty on trees producing lac and kosa was abolished in the Raigarh State, as it was considered oppressive. An official from the Nandgaon State and a Forest Muharrir from Sakti were sent to undergo training at the Balaghat Forest School at the expense of these States. In the Sarangarh State there were 98 minor offences in which 174 persons were involved.

Excise.

13. All the States, except Sarangarh, have shown an increase in Excise income. Smuggling is reported to occur in Raigarh and Sarangarh of charas and Baluchar ganja from across the border of the Sambalpur district, and ganja is also believed to find its way from Changbhakar into Korea. Three persons were convicted under the Excise Act in the Khairagarh State, and there were four Excise prosecutions in the Nandgaon State.

Education.

14. There was a rise in the number of pupils enrolled and in the expenditure on education in all States except Udaipur, Sakti and Kawardha, where there was a fall in the number of pupils. The citizens of Sakti have opened a private English Middle School, which has 12 students at present. The Khairagarh and Nandgaon States each erected two new school buildings, and two rural school buildings were built in the Kawardha State. It is proposed to appoint a whole-time Deputy Inspector of Schools for Jashpur. The reconstruction of the staff of the Rajkumar College is under consideration.

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

15. Four States were under the management of the Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh States Division, which has been abolished since the close of the year. Considerable sums were spent on improvement of State buildings; and the construction of tanks at Muripar and Masul in the Nandgaon State was in progress during the year.

Public Works.

10—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

The Season.

16. The monsoon commenced with a weak current late in the month of June, and the total rainfall during the month was less than usual everywhere. Insufficiency of rainfall restricted sowings to some extent in parts of certain districts. In July and August there was an increase in the activity of the monsoon, resulting in the whole of the Province receiving good and well-distributed rain. Agricultural operations were, however, retarded in places owing to continuous rain which damaged cotton slightly in the Narsinghpur and Wardha districts. An opportune break, with occasional light showers in the latter part of August, however, enabled agriculturists to resume operations. A prolonged break, causing some anxiety, then followed in September, but crop prospects were much improved by timely showers towards the end of the month. October passed practically dry, and this early cessation of the rains reduced considerably the outturn of all autumn crops on light soils, particularly in the Nimar district, where the rainfall was scanty. The drought also affected late sown rice in the Chhattisgarh Division and gave rise to apprehensions of shortage of fodder and water in Nimar and the Berar districts. A heavy fall of rain towards the end of November in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions, the rest of the Province receiving light showers only, caused considerable damage to the kharif crops in these Divisions, with the result that the damaged crops were ploughed up and replaced by rabi crops, chiefly wheat. At this period in Nimar the kharif outturn was reported to be about half the normal, while a crop little short of the average was anticipated elsewhere. December and January gave a sprinkling of rain accompanied by hail, which, however, did no damage. The weather was otherwise seasonable and favoured the prospects of an excellent spring crop. During the months of February and March light to moderate rain was received throughout the Province, which was again accompanied by hail in several districts, causing damage only in a limited number of villages, but retarding the harvesting, threshing and winnowing of rabi crops. With a shorter outturn of both kharif and rabi harvests than in the two preceding seasons, the prices of all food-grains rose higher than in 1911 or 1910. Rice rose by 10 per cent, juar by 17 per cent, wheat by 3 per cent and gram by 1 per cent, while cotton and til commanded higher prices than in the preceding year by 14 and 5 per cent, respectively.

Trade was brisk, wages ruled high throughout the year, and there was a keen demand for labour for mining, irrigation and railway operations. The number of employees in cotton-spinning and weaving factories also rose owing to the unusually good cotton crop of the preceding seasons, and ginning factories were kept fully engaged. The shortage of labour was once again made fully apparent. The condition of agriculturists and labourers was all that could be desired. In spite, however, of generally favourable conditions, the year was unhappily one of much unhealthiness and was marred by the ravages of severe epidemics. The birth-rate fell to 48·24, the lowest recorded since 1904, and the death-rate increased from 34·67 to 42·34 per mille. Cholera, plague and small-pox claimed a large number of victims, and fever was prevalent to a more than usual extent.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

REALIZATION OF REVENUE

1—REALIZATION OF REVENUE

[Resolutions on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces and of Berar for the year 1911-12.]

Central Provinces.

17. The total malguzari demand of land revenue on the roll in the Central Provinces amounted to Rs. 95,45,911, showing a net increase of over two lakhs. Nearly the whole of this came from revision of settlements in Damoh, Jubbulpore, Wardha, Drug and Bilaspur, the remainder being due to large muafi resumptions in Nagpur. In spite of this large addition to payments, the arrears of revenue of the previous year were recovered practically in full. Of the demand of the year, Rs. 50,455 were remitted, mainly on account of hailstorms, and Rs. 2,73,641 suspended, the greater part of it in the Jubbulpore, Seoni and Mandla districts, where the combined attacks of rust and hail caused damage which was rather over-estimated at the time. Excluding these amounts, all but an infinitesimal fraction was collected with even greater ease than in the previous year. Under "Land Revenue not on the roll," which consists mainly of ryotwari revenue, there was a balance of Rs. 4,390, of which the greater part was under suspension, while nearly the whole of the balance of Rs. 56,986 under "Miscellaneous Revenue" was on account of the claim against the Mohpani Colliery referred to last year, which was still under the consideration of the Government of India. Mining receipts increased in Nagpur and Bhandara, but fell considerably in Balaghat.

Berar.

18. The land revenue demand in Berar increased from Rs. 90,56,842 to Rs. 90,94,677, or by Rs. 37,835, of which Rs. 36,190 was due to the levy of deferred enhancements falling due. There was an increase of Rs. 35,000 in miscellaneous and fluctuating revenue, most of which represents measurement fees levied in the Record-of-Rights proceedings. The whole revenue demand, including the small arrears due, was practically collected before the end of the year without any difficulty and with the minimum of pressure. It is significant that in the few villages where an undoubtedly serious failure of crop suggested suspensions of revenue, it was found that the revenue had been paid up before effect could be given to the orders.

The coercive processes.

19. The coercive processes issued in the Central Provinces were fewer than in the previous year. In only 5 districts were any sales of moveable property actually effected, and in only one was it necessary to confine a defaulter in the Civil Jail. In Berar the demand was collected with great ease, and the amount of coercion employed was in fact far less than in 1909-10, when the crops were very much better. Only 479 notices of demand and 147 attachment warrants were issued, and sale of immoveable property was effected in only two cases.

Government loans.

20. The Government Loan Account of the Central Provinces and Berar (Principal) is shown in the following statement. The figures are for the financial year ending the 31st March 1913 :—

Statement showing Loan Account of the Central Provinces and Berar (Principal) for the financial year ending the 31st March 1913.

	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.		Under the Land Improvement Loans Act.	
	With interest.	Without interest.	With interest.	Without interest.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Outstanding at the commencement of the year, *i. e.*, on the 1st April 1912.	2,91,442 13 0	130 15 5	12,16,863 15 5	...
Remitted during the year 1912-13 ...	8,128 8 9	...	2,229 6 0	...
Collected do. do. ...	2,62,586 12 1	305 13 4	3,29,369 4 10	...
Advanced do. do. ...	3,67,795 7 2	...	1,26,618 11 8	...
Outstanding at the close of the year, *i. e.*, on the 31st March 1913.	3,88,522 15 4	174 13 11	10,11,884 0 3	...

REALIZATION OF REVENUE

21. Collection of the demands due under the Loans Acts amounted to 95 per cent in the case of Agriculturists' and 96 per cent in the case of Land Improvement loans. In the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions there were practically no arrears under either Act, while in the other Divisions it was found necessary to remit almost all the arrears that were outstanding. Loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act were largely distributed in villages which suffered from the February hailstorms. In the Hoshangabad and Bhandara districts the money advanced for land improvement loans was found to have been misapplied, and immediate recovery was ordered, but such cases are quite exceptional. There has been a smaller demand for taccavi loans, the most striking example of which,—in the Balaghat tahsil,—is attributed directly to the Co-operative Credit movement. Possibly the fall in the Jubbulpore district may be attributed in part to the same cause, which it is to be hoped may soon become general in its operation. **Central Provinces.**

22. The sums allotted in Berar during the financial year ending the 31st March 1912 for loans to agriculturists amounted to Rs. 49,170 under the Land Improvement Loans Act and Rs. 35,830 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act; the sums actually disbursed were Rs. 43,135 (88 per cent) and Rs. 34,360 (96 per cent), respectively. Advances were made under the Agriculturists' Loans Act for erecting on private seed farms small ginning plants worked by an oil-engine: loans were taken for two such installations in Buldana and Akola and three in Yeotmal. The demand due for collection as principal and interest was Rs. 1,28,170, but Rs. 1,31,975 were actually collected owing to some instalments being paid in advance. The net result of the year's working was a profit of Rs. 10,271 to the Local Administration after paying the interest due to the Government of India. **Berar.**

2—SURVEYS

SURVEYS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1912 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1912.]

23. The local traverse survey party traversed 242 villages, and, in addition to this, an area of 28,000 acres was traversed in the Chanda district, in connection with the Asola-Mendha and Gorajheri Government tanks. Considering that the work was scattered and the country under traverse was difficult and unhealthy, the outturn was satisfactory.

3—SETTLEMENT

SETTLEMENT

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1912 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1912.]

24. The orders of the Government of India on the inception of Settlement operations in the Nagpur district and on a reference regarding the term of the new settlement in the Wardha district were received. The final report on the Chandrapur, Padampur, Malkharoda and Phuljhar Estates was submitted to the Local Administration in June 1912. Settlement operations were in progress during the year in no less than 11 districts, but in Raipur, Drug, the Bilaspur Zamindaris, and the Melghat taluq in Berar the work was completed during the year, and in three more districts, *viz.*, Jubbulpore, Wardha and Bilaspur Khalsa, soon after the close of the year.

Damoh.—The Settlement Officer inspected 101 villages, thus completing attestation work. Rent-rate proposals for 386 villages and assessment proposals for 762 were received and sanctioned. Revised rents and revenue were announced in 707 villages. The operations were expected to be completed by the end of March 1913.

Saugor.—Attestation was carried out in 695 villages, of which 514 were inspected by the Settlement Officer personally. Rent-rate Reports for 142 villages were submitted and orders have been passed on them. During the year the map correction work of the whole district was completed.

Nimar.—Rent-rate proposals for the Harsud tahsil were received and sanctioned, though the unhealthiness of the climate and the general inaccuracy of the maps impeded the progress of the work. 93 villages of the Khandwa tahsil were also attested during the year. Map correction work was completed in 88 villages of the Khandwa tahsil and 242 villages of the Burhanpur tahsil.

Chap. II
SETTLEMENT

Nagpur.—The district was notified as under settlement in February 1912, and by the close of the year the attestation and inspection of the whole Nagpur tahsil, comprising 490 villages, were completed. Map correction work has been finished in Ramtek and Saoner tahsils. Fresh survey had to be made of 71,853 acres.

Amraoti.—The orders of the Local Administration on the two assessment reports for the Melghat taluq were communicated during the year. The announcement work has been completed.

LAND RECORDS

4—LAND RECORDS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1912 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1912.]

Land Records establishment.

25. The revision of the Patwari halkabandi of the Wardha, Damoh and Bilaspur districts involved the addition of four Patwaris in Wardha, twenty in the Bilaspur Zamindaris, while the staff in Damoh was reduced by twenty. Three additional posts of Revenue Inspectors were sanctioned, two for the Bilaspur Zamindaris and one for Damoh, and for the latter district the appointment of an Assistant Superintendent of Land Records has been sanctioned since the close of the year. A uniform rate of pay of Rs. 20 per mensem was sanctioned for Patwaris of the Melghat taluq, with six good-conduct allowances of Rs. 5 each. To supervise the work of these Patwaris two Revenue Inspectors were appointed. The prospects of Superintendents of Land Records have been improved, and under the orders of the Government of India the present grades of Superintendents have been modified and the pay raised. At the same time a uniform travelling allowance of Rs. 1-8-0 per diem has been approved independent of the amount of salary which a particular Superintendent may be receiving. Berar also shares in the benefit of improved prospects of Superintendents of Land Records. The pay of Patwaris in the Saugor, Damoh and Bilaspur districts was raised to a minimum of Rs. 10 per mensem.

Boundary marks.

26. Village boundary marks were maintained in good condition in most districts, but in Nimar and Raipur the boundary marks of survey numbers in ryotwari villages are not in a satisfactory condition. Some improvement is reported from Berar in this direction, but it is not commensurate with the time and energy expended by the staff on their duties in this connection. The proposed amendment to the law whereby cultivators failing to keep their boundary marks in repair will be liable to punishment, is still under consideration. Circle and village note-books were up to date in all districts, except Damoh, Saugor, Nimar, Nagpur, Raipur, Drug, Jubbulpore, Wardha and Bilaspur, where settlement operations caused delay.

Testing of village papers.

27. The checking of village papers by the Revenue Inspectors, though statistically sufficient, lacked quality. In many districts khasra testing began late and finished late. There was a tendency on the part of Superintendents of Land Records and their assistants to neglect the khasra check register with the result that their inspection of the Inspector's work was inadequate. It was also noticed that the Superintendents and their assistants thought more of the statistics of their own performances than of the accuracy of the records and that their check of Revenue Inspectors was often so superficial as to be useless. The attention of Deputy Commissioners has been drawn to this, and it is hoped that they will give the matter the attention it deserves. The amount of checking done by Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and Tahsildars was satisfactory. In Berar the outturn of inspection work was better than in past years.

Conduct of the Land Record staff.

28. The number of Patwaris who had permission to live outside their circles decreased from 179 to 171, and the number residing outside their circles without permission stood at 292 as against 307 last year. Though the number of Patwaris residing outside their circles is falling, still their residence within their circles should be more stringently insisted on. The number of punishments inflicted on Patwaris, though less than in the previous year, is still very great. The large increase in the amount of fines inflicted by Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents on Patwaris attracted the attention of the Director

LAND RECORDS

of Land Records, who submitted proposals for the abolition of the power of fining Patwaris. These proposals have been sanctioned. In Berar the work of Patwaris and Revenue Inspectors was favourably reported on. Punishments have been comparatively few in number.

5—WASTE LANDS

WASTE LANDS

[Report on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces and Bear for 1911-12.]

Central Provinces.

29. The total area available for allotment at the commencement of the year was 317,831 acres, of which 85,233 acres were allotted during the year, leaving a balance, after allowing for relinquishment, of 289,346 acres. In the six main ryotwari districts in the Central Provinces, *viz.*, Mandla, Seoni, Nimar, Betul, Chanda and Balaghat, there was an increase in occupied area of about 20,000 acres, by far the greater part of it being in Nimar and Mandla. In Nimar seven villages, four in Burhanpur and three in Khandwa, were colonized by immigrants from other districts; in Mandla the increase is apparently only the result of normal growth, but it is possible that some slight check to the migratory habits of the Gonds has already resulted from the improvement of the ryotwari land by field embankments.

Berar.

30. In Berar the area available for allotment in Khalsa villages amounted to 40,976 acres, of which 5,499 acres were allotted during the year. In Yeotmal an area of 5,453 acres was given out for cultivation: there are still nearly 31,000 acres of land in that district available for cultivation, but it is of very poor quality, and, except in parts of the Wun taluq, the demand is very weak. The process of re-classifying this land, which has been in progress for some years past, is expected to be completed next year, when the preparation of the Forest Working Plan is to be taken up. 8,820 acres of waste land were afforested in the same district during the year to improve boundaries. It is expected that the enquiries of the Working Plan Officer will show some exchanges between forest and waste to be desirable, and it is probable that a good deal of what is left after these adjustments will eventually be assigned for grazing, as being better adapted to that purpose than to cultivation.

6—GOVERNMENT ESTATES

GOVERNMENT ESTATES

31. There are no Government estates in the Central Provinces and Berar.

7—WARDS' ESTATES

WARDS' ESTATES

[Report on the management by Government of Private Estates for the year ending the 30th September 1912.]

Wards' Estates.

32. There were 76 estates under management at the commencement of the year; three were relinquished and two newly brought under management, leaving 75 at the close of the year. The total area of the 73 estates which remained under management throughout the year, and for which statistics have been tabulated, was a little under 7 million acres. The year was generally favourable agriculturally, except in the Jubbulpore district, where the rabi crops suffered from rust, and nearly Rs. 12,000 out of a current demand of over Rs. 70,000 had to be suspended or remitted. Good progress was made in the realization of the rental demand and also in the liquidation of debt. From a financial point of view the results obtained during the year were satisfactory and indicated careful supervision.

Income.

33. The gross income of the 73 estates, excluding loans received and opening balance, was Rs. 21,05,000. Rental collections amounted to Rs. 8,04,505, or 101 per cent of the current demand, the total demand, including arrears, being Rs. 8,88,231. Unsuspended arrears at the close of the year on account of rents stood at Rs. 41,216 as against Rs. 56,000 at the beginning of the year, but suspended arrears rose from Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 20,000. The total income from forests remained practically stationary at four and a half lakhs, but this source of revenue showed a satisfactory increase in most of the estates in which it was of importance. Two marked exceptions were the Harrai Jagirdari estate of Chhindwara and the Ahiri Zamindari in the Chanda district. In the former the drop was due to the deliberate closing down of a large area of forest in order to remedy excessive extraction by the late Jagirdar, while in the latter estate the previous

WARDS' ESTATES

year's income had been inflated by large collections on account of arrears and advance collections. For the better management of these large forest estates, regular working plans are about to be prepared. Much improvement in the working of the Zamindari forests in the Bilaspur district is expected from their examination by an Imperial Forest Service Officer specially deputed for the purpose.

Expenditure.

34. The total gross ordinary expenditure of all the estates was just under 1 $2\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs of rupees, a rise of almost a lakh, of which Rs 3 ,5,852 was paid in land revenue and cesses. The cost of management amounted to Rs. 2 43,270, or 14 per cent on gross ordinary income. Personal expenses, including charges for education, rose from less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ to a little over 3 lakhs This increase had been fairly widely distributed and sufficient vigilance was exercised by Commissioners in keeping this form of expenditure within reasonable limits. Advances amounting to Rs 2,58,692 were made. Expenditure on investments, whether in the form of estate improvements, the grant of taccavi or the purchase of securities, is only possible on a large scale in estates which are not involved in debt, but as much as Rs. 4,23,724 was devoted to these objects, of which Rs. 1,78,459 were spent in the improvement of the estates such as the construction of buildings, field embankments, water-supply and tanks.

Debts.

35. Good progress was made in the liquidation of debts, Rs. 1,67,598 having been devoted to this purpose out of current income. The total amount of debt, which aggregated Rs. 10,79,669 during the year, was reduced to Rs. 7,95,001 at the close of the year, a satisfactory result of the year's working. The only estates which failed to pay anything on account of the principal of the debt due by them were the Bichia estate in Jubbulpore and the Rajim estate in Raipur. In the former which is managed by one of the wards, special measures are now being taken to sell a portion of the estate, while in the latter the debt has since been paid off and orders for relinquishment of the estate issued The circumstances of the Kutki estate in Wardha are far from satisfactory. This is attributed to bad crops during the year, but it is observed that with good crops it should be possible to effect a large reduction in the debt each year.

General.

36. The degree of success attained in the cultivation of home-farm varied greatly, but it is not possible to come to any definite conclusions on the figures submitted, as the accounts were not kept uniformly in all the estates in accordance with the orders issued. Reports on the working of these rules have been called for and it is hoped that a satisfactory system of keeping home-farm accounts will be prescribed. Excellent results were achieved by the Deputy Commissioner, Wardha, in the Nachangaon estate where the net profits amounted to 16 rupees per acre, a degree of success which is probably the highest so far attained. The Court of Wards has been considerate to its tenants. Loans in cash and grain have been liberally advanced. There have been very few ejectments. Due attention has been paid to the education of minor wards and heirs of other wards, while their seniors have been encouraged as far as possible to interest themselves in the management of their estates, and it is satisfactory to note that with a few exceptions the reports on all wards are satisfactory.

REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES

8—REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1912 and of Berar for the year ending the 31st July 1912.]

General Conditions. Central Provinces.

37. The general average rainfall of the Central Provinces during the agricultural year ending the 31st May 1912 amounted to 46·59 as compared with a 44 years' average of 48·26 inches, but while the rainfall was above the average in the centre and east of the Province, it was short elsewhere, and very seriously short in the western districts, Betul and Nimar. The monsoon began well everywhere early in June, but a long break in July did some damage in places to the early crop and delayed late sowings and transplantation of rice. The rainfall was good in August, unevenly distributed in the critical month of September and was followed by good falls in October. The rice crop was above the average and the cotton crop was returned as normal. The late autumn rains produced conditions favourable to the rabi sowings and the spring

crops promised well up to February when cloudy weather with heavy rain and hail in some districts caused widespread damage in the Seoni, Mandla and Jubbulpore districts and in limited areas elsewhere. On the whole, the year, though not so propitious as the three seasons of unusual prosperity which preceded it, cannot be said to have been unfavourable.

38. The rainfall was most capricious in respect both of locality and character. Breaking exceptionally early with a good fall on June 3rd, the monsoon showed itself weak and fitful to such a degree as to give cause for anxiety, especially in the west of the Division where conditions were throughout much less favourable than elsewhere. The final storms of the monsoon at the end of September and beginning of October were most opportune, both for the rabi and kharif, and another fall in November, although it caused slight temporary damage to cotton, was of great benefit to rabi, and was in the end beneficial to cotton in some parts of the Division by prolonging the growing season. In spite of the capricious character of the rainfall, the agricultural conditions of the year were, on the whole, satisfactory. In no district except in a few scattered villages in Buldana was any scarcity felt, and this is chiefly due to the strength of Berar system of farming. With any less careful cultivation the results of the somewhat trying season would probably have been disastrous. Berar.

39. The year was, on the whole, a favourable one both for the Central Provinces and Berar. In the Central Provinces the total area occupied for cultivation has risen by 124,981 acres, the largest additions being in the Chhatisgarh districts and in Chanda. Other districts which show large increases are Jubbulpore and Mandla where they are attributed to the completion of the settlements, during the course of which many cases came to light of intentional retardation of development with a view to light assessment. Only in Nagpur and Saugor were there decreases, due to the acquisition of land for the Ramtek Reservoir and the settlement revision of maps. As regards Berar, it was only in the Melghat that a considerable area of occupied land amounting to 44,696 acres was relinquished. This area exceeds the land allotted by 21,888 acres. A decrease of 8,355 acres in the occupied area is accounted for by over estimate of areas on the yoke basis, which was corrected at Survey. The balance of the decrease is actual, but is mainly due to the ejectment of non-aboriginals for breach of conditions of lease. These men are nearly all petty money-lenders and their ejectment has, in most cases not been followed by emigration from the taluq.

40. Notwithstanding the local losses from hailstorms and rust, and in spite of a good deal of plague and cholera and severe outbreaks of cattle disease in several districts, Mandla and Bhandara in particular, the year was generally a prosperous one. The prosperity of the last few years has affected all classes of the village community, but it is probable that the tenants have benefited in a greater degree than the malguzars. But if the progress of proprietor and tenant has been marked, it is the labourer whose prosperity is most in evidence. Never has the labourer enjoyed so commanding a position; agricultural labour, in the Central Provinces as well as in Berar, is at a premium and almost every District Report testifies to the problem that is rapidly presenting itself as a necessary result of the present situation. The attitude of the agricultural community generally towards Government and Government measures has been entirely satisfactory. Nearly every District Report bears witness to the profound impression made on the popular imagination by the visit of Their Imperial Majesties, which was attended by a most remarkable demonstration of loyalty. Almost every Deputy Commissioner reports continued progress or a promising beginning in the matter of Co-operative Credit Societies.

41. In Berar, the agricultural conditions of the year were generally less favourable than in the two years immediately preceding, but the harvests ultimately reaped were far better than was expected, and the cotton crop, which in no district was a failure, reached in Amraoti a record both in area and outturn. But the extension of cotton cultivation has been at the expense of food crops such as juari and has begun to react upon the supply of fodder. The

effects of this tendency were, in the year under report, emphasised by the fodder famine in Bombay where the prevailing high prices attracted export from Berar from the already slender stock and there was necessarily much under-feeding and mortality of agricultural cattle But there are signs that the lesson is being taken to heart and that this warning has not come in vain. Cultivators in Yeotmal are said to be stocking grass to an extent unknown in recent years, and it is to be hoped that the opportunity will not be missed of doing what is possible to foster and encourage the practice of stall-feeding of cattle, on which stress has been laid both this and last year and on which the stability of Berar agriculture is largely dependent. Plague was absent and cholera appeared only in July as a result of the exceptionally short water-supply. Wages for the labouring classes remained high throughout the year. It is reported that so high a wage as 6½ annas failed to attract diggers to the Wadali tank in Amraoti, even at the slackest season of the year, and the supply of agricultural labour which is already unequal to the demand threatens to become one of the problems of the future.

Tenants.

42. A sum of over 4 lakhs has been added to rental collections mainly as the result of completion of Settlement operations in various districts. In districts not under settlement the rent rates show scarcely any variation: the Deputy Commissioners of Narsinghpur and Chhindwara both notice the growing tendency to depend for increased profit rather on *nazarana* or the taking of a lump premium than on rent enhancement, and this is a feature which now looms large in every Settlement Report that comes up, the sums ascertained to have been paid as *nazarana* frequently amounting to several years' revenue of the village. The statistics however show that the collections on current and arrear account together generally amount to very nearly the full annual demand.

Landlords.

43. Private sales of mahals decreased in number everywhere except in the Chhindwara district, where the rapid development of railway communication has given a great stimulus to speculation in land; the prices realised reached the very high figure of 57 times of the Land Revenue. In the Wardha district also there are instances of very high prices. During the year the whole subject of the transfer of proprietary rights, and of the extent to which the agricultural classes are losing their hold on the land, was again enquired into and discussed at the instance of the Government of India, and the general result of the discussion has been to show that the transfers that now occur are largely in favour of agriculturists and that there is no case for further hampering the transfer of land by legislation. The question is constantly under examination in the group reports submitted by Settlement Officers, the tone of which is almost uniformly reassuring. The area held as *sir* land, which last year showed an increase of 30,000 acres owing to the grant of *sir* rights at settlement, has this year fallen by 8,098 acres, the small increases in the districts under settlement having been more than counterbalanced by the steady reduction that goes on year by year under the operation of Section 45 of the Tenancy Act, of partitions and of other causes such as land acquisition. This loss in *sir* land however has been more than compensated by the extension of their cultivation of *khudkasht* The variation in the malik-makbuza area is insignificant.

Landlords and tenants. Central Provinces.

44. The relations between the landlords and tenants are on the whole satisfactory. The gospel of self-help has given birth to a spirit of self-reliance and independence. Patriarchal conditions are giving place to contractual relations. There are signs that the commercial character of the relations between landlord and tenant noticed in last year's report has intensified. The result is naturally more particularly apparent in those departments of rural economy in the regulation of which custom plays the largest part, *viz.*, the management of the village waste and the rights and duties of village servants. And it is becoming increasingly important to define in the village administration paper prepared at settlement the rights and liabilities of the classes concerned with sufficient precision to minimise the risk of disputes. Again, lambardars and shareholders are becoming more apt to quarrel over the division of profits, and there is an increasing tendency to bring these matters to the Courts. This tendency, which is the outcome of growing knowledge, is inevitable, but there is a danger that the new spirit of independence is tending to find its expression

in an ever-increasing resort to litigation, to which this country is so prone. The situation is a difficult one; it requires careful watching and tactful handling and calls more than ever, if development is to proceed on sound lines, for the exhibition of those qualities in District Officers which, if they can be summed up in any one word, may perhaps be expressed best by the term personality.

45. In Berar the relations of Izardars and their tenants are still not as cordial as they should be. It is impossible to expect any improvement in this respect until the position of the Izardar and his tenant is finally settled by the tenancy law which is under contemplation. Land in Berar is now so valuable that some resort to force is not uncommon, and riots would have been more numerous but for the free use of Section 145 of the Criminal Procedure Code. **Berar.**

CHAPTER III

PROTECTION

1—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

46. The Legislative Authority for the Central Provinces is the Council of the Governor-General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations. For Berar, legislation is effected by notification issued by the Governor-General in Council, under the power conferred on him by the Indian (Foreign Jurisdiction) Order in Council, 1902.

2 COURSE OF LEGISLATION

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

47. No Act specially affecting the Central Provinces was passed by the Imperial Legislature during the year 1912. The Workman's Breach of Contract Act, XIII of 1859, was made applicable to the districts of Akola and Amraoti in Berar. The Hyderabad Assigned Districts Land Revenue Code, 1896, was amended by the Government of India in the Foreign Department by the addition of Chapter VIII-A, relating to the preparation and maintenance of a Record-of-Rights in land.

3—POLICE

POLICE

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1912, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Crime, general

48. The economic conditions of the year were somewhat uneven, but were on the whole fair, except in the Jubbulpore Division, where damage was done to the rabi crops by hailstorms and rust, and in Berar, where fodder became very scarce in the hot weather. Plague, though widespread at the commencement of the year, died down at the approach of the hot weather, and it did not become serious anywhere during the rest of the year. The relations between Government and the people continued to be good, and overt sedition was practically non-existent. The number of offences reported to the Police was 27,654 as compared with 25,338 in 1911. The increase is attributed to the improvement in reporting due to better relations between the Police and the people, to the improvement in registration following on the further extension of the reallocation schemes which replace out-posts in charge of Head Constables by Station-houses with Sub-Inspectors, and to the greater readiness on the part of Courts to grant compensation out of fines to aggrieved persons. Heinous crime was slightly less frequent than in past years. The more serious kinds of heinous crime, *viz.*, murder and dacoity, appreciably decreased, while there was a slight increase in the number of attempted murders and robberies. The greater part of the increase in crime falls under house-breakings and ordinary thefts.

Offences against the State, the person and property.

49. Offences against the State declined from 329 to 318. The number of murders fell from 222 to 188. There was a decrease in the number of dacoities from 58 to 46, while robberies rose from 200 to 218. The number of riots decreased from 202 to 192, which is attributed in part to the energetic action of the Police in reporting to Magistrates under the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code. Disputes concerning immoveable property rose from 266 to 367. Serious mischiefs of all kinds increased from 406 to 504, of which no less than 481 were cases of arson. Very few cases were brought before the Courts, and convictions obtained in only a small percentage of cases decided owing to the difficulty of obtaining evidence. There were only 23 cases of cattle-poisoning against 46 in the previous year, and of these 14 belonged to the Chhattisgarh Division. The number of house-breakings increased from 6,338 to 7,125, while the value of the property concerned in them has risen from Rs. 3,61,405 to Rs. 5,19,767. The increase is due to fuller reporting, and to more accurate registration, and the rise in value of property concerned is due to the inclusion of one false case in which property to the value of Rs. 40,000 was alleged to have been stolen, and to the fact that there were considerably more heavy cases than in the previous year.

Police action.

50. The Police force continues to improve in methods of investigation and in discipline. There is a slight decrease in the percentage of cases investigated, this decrease falling entirely under ordinary thefts. The position in regard

to the use of statistics in Police work is not yet sufficiently understood, and these statistical results do not indicate any deterioration in the standard of Police work. Circular orders were issued on the subject of the exercise by Station-house Officers of the discretion given them to take up or refuse investigations. A notable success was the recapture by the Yeotmal Police of one Latia Kolam, an escaped robber, who had for the past three years been terrorising the Hyderabad-Yeotmal border. Complaints of torture against Police officers were comparatively frequent, but none were serious, and in most cases the complaints were found to be either entirely false or so exaggerated that no reliance could be placed on them.

Rural and Punitive Police.

51. There are no Rural Police in these Provinces, but the Police are using their best endeavours to enlist the aid of village headmen and villagers in the reporting of crime, and there is evidence that crime is more accurately as well as more fully reported. A notable instance of this co-operation was the capture by the Police with the villagers' assistance of a gang of dacoits who had waylaid a tonga conveying Rs. 12,000 in the Yeotmal jungles. The Punitive Police force imposed on the Jonda and Parsada villages in the Raipur District from May 1911 was removed during the year, and no new Punitive Police were imposed.

Establishment.

52. There was one retirement during the year from the Indian Police. The sanctioned strength of Inspectors was raised from 145 to 147 in order to strengthen the investigating staff of the Criminal Investigation Department, and that of Sub-Inspectors from 669 to 685 in order to fill the new posts of Station-house officers and investigating officers caused by the further introduction of re-allocation schemes. The number of posts reserved for probationers at the Training School has been raised to 55 as against 50 proposed last year. The sanctioned strength of Constables was increased to 9,256, three Constables being added for employment in the Railway Police. Reallocation schemes have been introduced completely in 18 districts and partial reallocation effected in four districts. The total cost of the Provincial Police force during the year amounted to Rs. 33,09,461, an increase of more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs on the previous year, which was due to full effect having been given in the accounts of the year to the increases of establishment effected during the previous year, to the large amount of Police expenditure incurred in connection with the Delhi Darbar, to the cost of the bonus sanctioned for subordinates having fallen into the accounts of the year, and to the special efforts which were made to recruit the force up to its full strength. The experiment of placing recruits under a three years' agreement is, in the opinion of most officers, an excellent system and works well. The only recruits discouraged by it are those who have no intention of continuing in Police service longer than it suits them, and the ultimate effect of the system should therefore be to reduce the number of voluntary resignations. The health of the force continued to improve during the year, and the number of deaths among the rank and file was 130 as compared with 132 last year. The Criminal Investigation Department was reorganized by the addition of two Inspectors and the abolition of two posts of Sub-Inspectors. The staff of the Finger-Print Bureau was increased by one Sub-Inspector in order to meet increasing work and especially the increased demand for the attendance of experts in the Courts. The reorganization of the Mounted Police has been found to work well. The Remount Fund has been restored to a solvent condition, and considerable improvement effected in the turnout of both men and horses by concentration at Nagpur.

Miscellaneous

53. Three officers and 124 men were dismissed, and 65 officers and 521 men punished departmentally. Excellent progress was made by the Public Works Department in the construction of Police buildings during the year, over three lakhs of rupees being spent on this account. The relations of the Central Provinces Police with those of Native States continued to be satisfactory.

4—CRIMINAL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Criminal) of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1912, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Crime.

54. The total number of offences reported rose from 37,046 to 39,820 or by 7·5 per cent, and the number of cases returned as true from 29,097 to 30,656, an increase of 5·3 per cent. There was a rise of 1,169 (14 per cent) in the

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

number of complaints dealt with under Section 203, Criminal Procedure Code. Of offences reported, 29,785 were under the Indian Penal Code, an increase of 8·4 per cent on the figures of the previous year. The increase is practically confined to a few heads, namely, offences against the public peace and the lawful authority of public servants, hurt and the minor kinds of offences against the human body, mischief, criminal trespass and crimes against matrimony. The total number of offences against property other than those mentioned above remains virtually unchanged, as does that of all other heads of crime under the Code Offences under Special and Local Laws rose from 9,577 to 10,035. Prosecutions under the Municipal Laws and the Police Act decreased in Berar. Under the Central Provinces Municipal Act there has been a great increase of cases, due to greater immunity from plague during the year. An increase of cases has also taken place under the Arms, Excise and Forest Acts, which is ascribed to increased efficiency in the preventive staff. Prosecutions under the Cantonments Act, 1910, have fallen from 1,333 to 474. There has been an increase of cases under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, due to the inclusion of statistics of cases in which the Courts' order has not been disobeyed, and to the extension of the Act to the Akola District. It is satisfactory to note that it was not found necessary during the year to take action under Chapter VI of the Indian Penal Code, nor were the Courts called upon to have recourse to the provisions of the Indian Press Act, 1910, the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, 1911, or the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908.

Courts of Original Jurisdiction.

55. There was a further decrease from 289 to 255 or 11·8 per cent in the number of persons under trial before District Magistrates, which is exactly equalled by the rise in the number of those tried by Courts of Sessions and Superior Courts. The District Magistrate, Bilaspur, was assisted during a considerable part of the year by a Magistrate invested with powers under Section 30 of the Criminal Procedure Code. A similarly empowered Assistant was posted to Saugor at the close of the year. Accused before Honorary Magistrates numbered 17,603 during the year against 17,836 in the year preceding. The Bench at Jubbulpore has been strengthened during the year. The number of persons tried by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates has risen in all districts, except Chanda, Bhandara and Jubbulpore. The percentage of persons under trial before the various classes of Magistrates were—District Magistrates, ·5; Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, 71·5; and Honorary Magistrates, 28·0. The corresponding figures for 1911 were ·6, 68·5 and 30·9. The number of cases tried summarily has fallen from 3,675 to 3,264, and the percentage on the total number of cases disposed of from 13·3 to 11·1. The decrease is most noticeable in Nagpur, where it amounts to over 500 cases, and is obviously due to the decline in cases under the Cantonments Act. The number of persons released on probation of good conduct under Section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, was almost the same as last year. Four more Tahsildars were empowered under the section.

The despatch of business.

56. The number of cases disposed of during the year was 29,465 as compared with 27,947 in 1911, the average duration in all Courts being 17·7 days as compared with 17·2. In the Central Provinces the average duration of Police cases fell from 19·7 to 18·9. In Berar complaint cases lasted for 8·9 days instead of 7·7 each. The comparatively high average duration of cases in the Courts of these Provinces is due in part to the extensive area over which they exercise jurisdiction, and in part to the fact that many districts border on Native States from which it is found difficult to secure the presence of witnesses.

Sessions Courts.

57. The number of cases disposed of by Sessions Courts was 240 against 237, the percentage of convictions was 59·3 against 66·7, and the average duration 52·0 compared with 48·1 in the previous year.

Appellate and Revisional Jurisdiction.

58. The number of appeals preferred by convicted persons to the Judicial Commissioner's Court further declined from 270 to 257. In 81·7 per cent of the appeals disposed of, the findings, and in 70·8 per cent both the findings and sentences, of the Lower Court were confirmed. Benches of two Judges disposed of 53 references for confirmation of capital sentences. In one case in which the Judges disagreed, the proceedings were submitted to the third Judge, the Judicial Commissioner, for decision under Sections 378 and 429, Criminal Procedure Code. The number of persons whose

appeals were before Sessions Courts rose from 1,692 to 1,736 and those before Magistrates from 2,975 to 3,000. The average duration of appeals in Sessions Courts rose from 18·4 days to 19·4. In Magisterial Courts the average duration increased slightly in the Central Provinces and in Berar by two days. The percentage of cases in which the original sentences were upheld was 66·2 in the Sessions Courts and 59·9 in Magistrates' Courts against 70·4 and 58·6, respectively, in the previous year. There was a slight decrease in the number of appeals both to Sessions and District Courts in Berar. The appeals of 1,505 persons were dismissed summarily as compared with 1,488 in the year previous. Appeals were filed by the Local Government against the acquittal of 16 persons implicated in six cases. The High Court declined to interfere in the case of 11 of these persons, 2 accused were convicted and sentenced, and in the case of the remaining three the conviction and sentence of the Magistrate were restored and the Appellate order of the Additional Sessions Judge set aside. Ten of these accused were concerned in two cases arising out of a single agrarian riot in which two persons had been killed.

Punishments.

59. The percentage of persons sentenced to imprisonment, with or without other punishment, to fine only and to whipping only were, respectively, 21·2, 76·0 and 2·8. The corresponding percentages in 1911 were 23·1, 74·0 and 2·9. The number of whippings inflicted was 529 as compared with 518 in the previous year. The number of persons sentenced to imprisonment for 15 days and under in Berar has fallen from 48 to 13, but in the Central Provinces it has risen from 54 to 96. The number of previously convicted offenders sentenced again has fallen steadily from 1,069 in 1908 to 567 in the year under report—a fall due partly to the increased prosperity of the people and partly to the salutary effect of stern discipline in jail. The number of persons sentenced to fine rose from 13,645 to 14,526, and the total of fines imposed from Rs. 1,65,589 to Rs. 1,91,869, the percentage of realizations being 94·5 against 92·6. The amount struck off as unrealizable was Rs. 6,806 compared with Rs. 5,359 in the preceding year, and the balance outstanding for realization rose from Rs. 13,118 to Rs. 16,604. In addition to 12 boys detained in a Reformatory School, 13 juveniles, including three girls, were sent to jail during the year.

5—PRISONS

PRISONS

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1912, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

General.

60. The number of Central, District and Subsidiary Jails has undergone no change. The substitution of a Magisterial lock-up for the Sironcha Subsidiary Jail has not yet taken place owing to delay in the construction of the Magisterial lock-up. The Inspector-General is considering the reduction of some Jails.

Jail population.

61. The number of prisoners admitted into Jail during the year rose slightly, from 8,413 in 1911 to 8,688, though the daily mean average fell from 3,576 to 3,132. The gradual decrease in daily average is accompanied by a rise in the cost per individual prisoner from Rs. 88-4-0 to Rs. 105-11-0. Of juveniles under 16 years of age, 14 males and 4 females were admitted to Jail—a decrease of 4 as compared with the previous year. The number of Europeans admitted during the year increased from 9 to 11, 10 of whom belonged to the Army. Most of these men appeared to have committed petty thefts solely with the object of obtaining their discharge. The number of previous convicts admitted shows a satisfactory decrease, which indicates that the penal nature of the imprisonment in the Jails of these Provinces has a deterrent effect.

Jail discipline.

62. Prison offences have fallen from 17,442 to 14,692, but the ratio of major punishments to the average daily population shows an increase. Four prisoners, of whom three were recaptured, escaped during the year, mainly as the result of carelessness. The number of corporal punishments is practically the same as last year, and the majority of them were inflicted for repeated short work. There was an unusual number of assaults of a serious nature in the Jails, in one case resulting in death. Discipline in Jails was generally well maintained.

PRISONS

Health.

63. The health of prisoners during the year was unusually good, and the daily average of sick considerably less than at any time during the last seven years. Great improvement has taken place in the health of the Raipur Central Jail, the high death-rate of which was noticed last year. The ravages of dysentery which prevailed as an epidemic during the previous two years have ceased. The Jubbulpore Central Jail has also had a successful year with a record of 2·90 of daily average sick. Cholera prevailed in several districts, but the Jails were kept almost entirely free from it.

Jail Industries.

64. The same industries were carried on in the Jail as last year. 1,237 convicts were employed in the Jail factories, the percentage to the total population sentenced to labour thus employed being 43 as compared with 46 in the previous year. 317 convicts were employed daily in preparing articles for the use of prisoners, *viz.*, grinding corn and manufacturing clothing. The Jubbulpore Jail which supplies the Army in India with miscellaneous woven goods has carried out its contract to the satisfaction of the Military authorities. The daily average number of convicts employed in Jail gardens was 270, and vegetables worth Rs. 9,075 were raised for the use of prisoners. Convicts employed as prison officers and prison servants numbered, respectively, 271 and 357. 136 convicts were daily employed on Jail buildings; the value of their labour was Rs. 3,630. The cash earnings of Jails showed a falling off from Rs. 59,875 in the previous year to Rs. 32,815. The Central Jails mainly contributed to this result, but the Inspector-General speaks highly of the work turned out.

Cost of Jail Administration

65. The total cost to Government of the maintenance of prisoners was Rs. 3,31,197 as compared with Rs. 3,15,641 in the preceding year. The net cost to Government was Rs. 2,93,382 compared with Rs. 2,55,765 in 1911 The average cost per head rose from Rs. 71-8-0 to Rs. 95-3-0. All heads except "Hospital Charges," "Clothing and Bedding" and "Travelling Allowance" have contributed to this increase. The largest increase (Rs. 11,288) occurred under "Establishment." The fall in the daily average number of prisoners and the increase of establishment, coupled with the prevalence of unfavourable rates for food-grains, have been the chief causes of the increase. The average profit per head of the number sentenced to labour was Rs. 11-5-9 compared with Rs. 10-0-8 in 1911, and the average cash profit per head Rs. 9-5-7 as against Rs. 18-4-8 in the previous year. The savings effected to Government by the employment of prison labour amounted to Rs. 80,382 as compared with Rs. 85,063 in 1911

CIVIL JUSTICE

6—CIVIL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration Civil) of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1912-13 Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Tribunals and character of litigation.

66. The Mandla Civil District was merged in that of Jubbulpore during the year, the Subordinate Judge being made an Additional District Judge. There is an increase of one in the number of Subordinate Judges due to the fact that two members of the Indian Civil Service were filling that position at the close of the year as compared with one at its commencement. At Saugor the Cantonment Small Cause Court was abolished. The Subordinate Judge's Court at Narsinghpur was closed and another Court of the same class opened at Akola The number of Munsiffs decreased owing to the abolition of the temporary posts at Harsud and Akola. The total number of suits instituted fell from 115,016 in 1911 to 100,080, the latter being a trifle below the figure of 1908 and considerably lower than that of any subsequent year. This decrease of 13 per cent is particularly marked in the case of suits for money or moveable (13,331) and suits for arrears of rent (2,512) and on mortgages (950). There was a noticeable increase in suits relating to immoveable property due to the inception of Settlement operations. The total value of suits declined from 194 lakhs in 1911 to 181 lakhs. The Central Provinces account for 10 lakhs of the decrease. The average value per suit instituted rose in the Central Provinces from Rs. 140 to Rs. 147, and in Berar from Rs. 260 to Rs. 292, the last a higher figure than has ever previously been reached. Small Cause Court powers were conferred during the year on one District Judge, six Subordinate Judges and on five Munsiffs. In addition to this the Small Cause powers already exercised by one District Judge, five Subordinate Judges and five Munsiffs were enhanced.

The number of cases, however, disposed of by such Courts has remained practically stationary in the Central Provinces, and has decreased by nearly 1,000 in Berar, the total figure for Central Provinces and Berar being 43,150 as against 44,095 in 1911. The percentage of suits disposed of by Munsiffs shows a further fall from 58·3 to 51·3 and that of suits decided by Small Cause procedure a corresponding rise from 34 to 41·6. Subordinate Judges disposed of 6·3 per cent of the total and District Judges of 0·8 per cent.

Pending files.

67. There has been a most satisfactory improvement in the pending files in all districts except Raipur and Chhindwara. The Central Provinces as a whole closed the year with 17,937 cases pending, a lower figure than in any previous year since 1907. In Berar 9,022 cases were pending and the proportion of suits pending over six months is still undesirably high. The number of suits pending at the close of this year in the Central Provinces and Berar was, respectively, 17·1 and 23·9 per cent of the total number of suits before the Courts. In Nagpur the total balance has been reduced from 4,178 to 2,504, and suits over six months from 1,109 to 631. On the whole the files have returned to a normal condition after the distension of recent years. In Berar two additional Munsiffs worked at Akola and Yeotmal again throughout the year.

Execution of decrees.

68. The number of applications for execution before the Courts was 126,277 compared with 125,874 in the preceding year. There was a reduction of the pending files from 26,970 to 23,327, coupled with a considerable increase both in the number of applications fully satisfied and those wholly infructuous, and accompanied by an appreciable decline in the number of coercive processes. There is an increase, however, in the number of applications in which possession of immoveable property was given and in the number of those transferred for execution to the Collector.

Appellate litigation.

69. There was a marked rise in the number of appeals instituted before the Judicial Commissioner's Court, 1,253 appeals, regular and miscellaneous, being preferred as against 1,040 in 1911. Of these 1,006 were disposed of, the pending file rising from 777 to 1,025. Durations have also seriously increased. Of the appeals decided, the decision of the Lower Courts was not interfered with in 692 cases (68·8 per cent). There were also 396 applications for Civil revision during the year.

The total number of appeals, regular and miscellaneous, before Divisional Judges, instituted and disposed of during the year was as follows :—

Instituted	538
Decided	468
Pending	185

as compared with 408,381 and 116 in the previous year. The average duration of regular appeals for the whole Province increased from 94·6 to 117·0. Institutions in District Judges' Courts, inclusive of the Courts of Subordinate Judges exercising appellate powers, rose from 3,844 to 4,057. In the Central Provinces the year closed with 893 appeals pending as compared with 814 at the end of the preceding year, though disposals were everywhere satisfactory. In Raipur the total number for disposal was 533, a figure too high for any Judge to deal with unaided in addition to his administrative duties and original suits. Institutions in Berar numbered 1,674 as compared with 1,477 in the previous year, and the year closed with 1,001 appeals pending as compared with 788. The duration of decided appeals was, however, considerably shortened, the average for regular appeals falling from 241·6 to 188·1, and that for miscellaneous appeals from 184·4 to 101·3 days.

Miscellaneous.

70. Throughout the year, as has been the case ever since the present cadre was introduced, one of the three District Judgeships in the Central Provinces reserved for a member of the Indian Civil Service remained unfilled. Another such post and the Additional District and Sessions Judgeship in Berar, which is similarly reserved for members of the Commission, were held by members of the Provincial Service for six and ten months, respectively. Towards the close of the year a District and Sessions Judge from Berar was transferred to the Central Provinces, his place in Berar being

taken by the Senior Divisional and Sessions Judge. One District Judge was invalided during the year, and one Subordinate Judge and one Munsiff dismissed. Separate Judicial Nazarats were created at Chanda and Mandla during the year. Joint Nazarats now remain only in Betul and Narsinghpur. There was a case of embezzlement by the Naib-Nazir at Basim, but Government was not put to any loss. In the Bhandara District two cases occurred in which property was stolen from the Nazarat, in neither of which have the culprits been traced. A new and enhanced scale of process fees came into force at the beginning of the year, and a revised scale of pay for process-servers was introduced at an increased monthly cost of Rs. 3,697, which has resulted in a marked improvement in the staff of process-servers. Three cases of criminal breach of trust by process-servers were reported during the year. The copying staff was extensively revised. There was a case of defalcation by the Head Copyist at Hoshangabad. The prospects of the process-writing establishment were improved at a total cost of Rs. 990 per mensem. There was one case of embezzlement at Amraoti by a process-writer who was prosecuted and convicted. New Court-houses were built at Balaghat, Saugor and Seoni and a new Munsiffi at Janjgir in the Bilaspur District. Work was continued on the Court-houses at Jubbulpore, Chhindwara and Raipur and the Munsiffi at Katol. The question of the provision of residential accommodation particularly for the lower grades of Judicial officers, who should never be beholden to local landlords, is receiving attention.

REGISTRATION

7—REGISTRATION

[Report on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces and Berar during the calendar year 1912, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Registration.

71. The continued prosperity and favourable character of the year are reflected in an increase from 79,842 to 89,552, or 12·2 per cent, in the number of documents registered, which is the highest figure recorded. The increase was common to almost all districts and extended to all classes and kinds of documents. The Berar districts show an increase of 16·9 per cent and Central Provinces districts 5·7 per cent. The value of property affected rose from Rs. 3,75½ lakhs to Rs. 4,85½ lakhs,—an increase of 29·3 per cent. Compulsory registrations affecting immoveable property increased by 13·1 per cent. In the Central Provinces perpetual leases increased again from 1,683 to 2,123. Optional registrations remained almost stationary, while the aggregate value increased by 36·7 per cent. Registrations affecting moveable property increased by 4·2 per cent. Orders under the Land Improvement Loans Act were filed in 396 cases against 427 in the previous year, and under the Agriculturists' Loans Act in 388 cases against 274. Sales of proprietary rights rose from 1,025 to 1,061, while the number of villages and shares included in these transactions decreased from 1,283 to 1,222, and of these 70 per cent were in favour of agriculturists. Mortgages of villages and shares increased from 1,634 to 1,791, and 62 per cent of these were in favour of non-agriculturists. With the increase in the volume of registration work, the income of the Department rose from Rs. 3,19,292 to Rs. 3,75,880, an increase of 17·7 per cent. Expenditure increased by 8 per cent from Rs. 1,23,571 to Rs. 1,33,447 which represents only 36 per cent of the receipts against 39 per cent in the previous year. The increased expenditure was due to the bonus paid to officials on the occasion of Their Imperial Majesties' visit to India and to the commission on the increased number of documents registered. The thumb impression system worked successfully.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

8—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

[Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1912-13, and Part VIII of the Statistics of British India.]

Number and constitution of Municipalities.

72. As in the previous year, there were 43 Municipalities in the Central Provinces and 13 in Berar. The extension of the Burhanpur Municipality led to the creation there of an additional ward and to an increase of the nominated and elected members by two and one, respectively; there were also some minor changes in the constitution of the Badnur and Balaghat Municipalities. All Municipal Committees, except those of Ramtek, Khapa, Kalmeshwar, Saoner, Mandla, Pachmarhi, Narsinghpur, Gadarwara and Chota Chhindwara, held at

least the prescribed number of meetings. Attendance at the meetings was generally satisfactory, especially in the Nagpur and Berar Divisions. Considerable interest was shown at the elections in some towns such as Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Saugor, Seoni, Khandwa, Burhanpur, and the larger towns of Berar.

Income.

73. The total income of all Municipalities, excluding extraordinary and debt, was Rs. 32,26,353 against Rs. 26,46,530 in the previous year. Octroi, which is levied in 23 out of the 43 Municipalities and Cantonments in the Central Provinces, yielded an income of Rs. 9,89,534, representing nearly 62 per cent of the total revenue from taxes in all the Municipalities in the Central Provinces. This tax is not levied in Berar. The total income from taxes other than octroi rose from Rs. 8,00,219 to Rs. 8,86,367, or by about 11 per cent. Nearly half of this increase appears under water-rates, but conservancy (including scavenging and latrine rates), taxes on houses and lands and taxes on professions and trades, all yielded an increased amount. The incidence of taxation calculated per head of population according to the new census fell at Rs. 2-2-2 as compared with Rs. 1-14-5 in the previous year. The realization under Special Acts forms 3¾ per cent of the total Municipal income, an increase of about 11 per cent on the previous year's figures. The revenue derived from Municipal property and powers apart from taxation increased from Rs. 4,24,000 to Rs. 5,10,000 in round figures. The Government contributions amounted to Rs. 5,68,939 and form about 18 per cent of the total income of Municipalities. Of this amount the largest portion, *viz.*, Rs. 4,03,168, represents grants to Municipalities in the Central Provinces and Berar for sanitary purposes. This sum includes Rs. 2,28,000 allotted to the Nagpur, Wardha and Khamgaon Municipalities for drainage projects and Rs. 1,35,000 to various Municipalities for the improvement of water-supply, of which about half was allotted to the towns of Amraoti and Khandwa for the urgent temporary arrangements necessitated there by the water famine in the hot weather of 1913. In addition to these sums, Rs. 37,000 was granted to the Burhanpur, Khandwa and Nagpur Municipalities for various objects of sanitary improvement.

Expenditure.

74. The opening balance of all the Municipalities in the Central Provinces and Berar at the beginning of the year was Rs. 10,63,593. The receipts amounted to Rs. 36,99,910, making a sum of Rs. 47,63,503 available for expenditure and the disbursements to Rs. 34,89,340, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 12,74,163. The actual expenditure, excluding debt and extraordinary expenditure, amounted to Rs. 30,50,762 against Rs. 29,20,516 in the preceding year. The capital outlay on water-supply amounted to Rs. 2,06,332 against Rs. 4,36,792 in the preceding year, this decrease being due to the completion in the preceding year of the Gorewara Reservoir near Nagpur, on which over 4 lakhs of rupees was spent in 1911-12. The scarcity of water in Khandwa necessitated an expenditure of about Rs. 20,000 on the Imli Nala Scheme in order to supplement the existing supply of water, while the Burhanpur Municipality had to incur an expenditure of over Rs. 17,000 for a similar object. In the greater part of the Berar Division, where, except in the Yeotmal District, the monsoon was weak, the water scarcity was the most severe within memory. The arrangements made with the aid of Government for the supply of water in seven Municipalities in Berar, *viz.*, Amraoti Town, Amraoti Camp, Buldana, Khamgaon, Akola, Shegaon and Malkapur, involved an expenditure of nearly Rs. 1,13,000, but were in a great measure successful, and all the towns affected got a fair supply of water under most difficult conditions. The capital outlay on drainage amounted to Rs. 3,87,585 as compared with Rs. 2,01,172 in the preceding year, and of this, Rs. 3,00,510 was spent in Nagpur. In Wardha the work of the surface drainage scheme is in progress, and the grant of Rs. 78,000 received from Government for the work during the year was paid to the Public Works Department. The expenditure on conservancy and sanitation rose from Rs. 4,77,172 to Rs. 5,15,177, *i. e.*, by 8 per cent. The reconstitution of the Sanitation Board in the year under review has given a marked impetus to the Sanitary branch of Municipal administration. Action is being taken under the advice of the Board to extend the area of towns, to open out congested areas, to establish markets, to replace obsolete by sanitary latrines and to revise the building by-laws. In order to deal efficiently with the development of sanitation and the expansion of the programme of Sanitary works, the Sanitary service of the Province has been reorganized and strengthened. The expenditure on public instruction was Rs. 3,51,792 against

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

Rs. 2,88,717 in the preceding year; the Government contributions for educational purposes amounted to Rs. 1,00,529 against Rs. 71,702. The educational enterprise of Municipalities is chiefly directed to the maintenance of Primary and Middle Schools, and good progress has been made. A pension scheme for all school masters in superior service in the employ of Municipal Committees has now been finally settled, and something was done in the year under review to improve the pay of masters and to expand the staff of some of the existing schools in order to meet the increase in attendance.

Loans.

75. Fourteen Municipalities, *viz.*, Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Hinganghat, Arvi, Saoner, Jubbulpore, Seoni, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Harda, Raipur, Akola and Amraoti Camp, and the Drug Notified Area, have taken loans from Government, and the total balance outstanding at the close of 1912-13 on account of Government loans was Rs. 21,77,217. Of this total, the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Municipalities, which are the largest borrowers, owe about 12½ lakhs and 4 lakhs, respectively: The finances of all towns which have taken loans are satisfactory.

9—DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

[Resolution on the working of District Councils and Local Boards of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1912-13, and Part VIII of the Statistics of British India.]

Number, constitution, meetings and attendance.

76. There were few changes in the constitution of the District Councils and Local Boards. A number of villages in Berar were transferred from the Melghat Taluq to the Jalgaon, Akot, Daryapur and Ellichpur Taluqs, and the Damjipura Circle was transferred from the Harsud Local Board in the Nimar District to the Bhainsdehi Local Board in the Betul District. All District Councils and District Boards held the prescribed number of meetings. Among the Local Boards the only defaulters in this matter were the Baihar Local Board in the Balaghat District, the Mahasamund Local Board in the Raipur District and the Drug, Bemetara and Sanjari Local Boards in the Drug District. The average percentage of members present at each meeting rose from 44 in 1911-12 to 48 during the year under review, the average attendance of non-official members showing a corresponding improvement.

Income and Expenditure.

77. Income and expenditure, excluding account heads, showed an increase of Rs. 2,28,000 and Rs. 3,40,000, respectively, as compared with the figures of the preceding year. The most noticeable increases in income are Rs. 80,000 under "Cattle-pounds," Rs. 1,04,000 under "Government Contributions" and Rs. 25,000 under "Other Contributions." The expenditure under "Education" rose by Rs. 49,000 and that under "Civil Works" by Rs. 2,76,000. The large closing balances, which in many districts have still further increased since the preceding year, belong mostly to the Civil Works Fund, and are due less to the want of schemes than to defects in the arrangements for their preparation or execution. The total expenditure on education, excluding expenditure on buildings and repairs which is included under Public Works, was Rs. 6,30,000 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 3,26,000 in Berar, against Rs. 6,00,000 and Rs. 3,07,000, respectively, in the previous year, the Government contributions amounting to Rs. 4,86,000 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 1,17,000 in Berar. There were 1,841 Primary Schools in the Central Provinces and 699 in Berar at the close of the year, or 177 and 68 more, respectively, than in the preceding year. The number of Middle Schools increased in the Central Provinces from 82 to 83 and decreased in Berar from 132 to 124. The numbers of schools and scholars have everywhere increased; accommodation has been considerably extended, and the staff is numerically improving, though the want of a sufficient number of certificated and trained teachers is a difficulty which can only gradually be overcome. The average percentage of their total income spent by the Councils on education falls at 35 per cent in the Central Provinces and 30 per cent in Berar. District Funds in the Central Provinces and Berar subsidised 142 dispensaries against 136 in the preceding year, the expenditure being Rs. 1,07,508 against Rs. 98,155. The expenditure on vaccination, which was Rs. 63,998, shows a steady increase everywhere, and will be still further enhanced by the proposed scheme, now under consideration, for the improvement of the pay and prospects of the District Vaccination staff. The expenditure on sanitation and conservancy amounted to Rs. 2,168 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 34,961 in Berar against Rs. 2,154 and Rs. 43,465

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

in the preceding year. But these sums do not include expenditure incurred on the construction and repairs of wells, which is shown under "Civil Works—Water-supply and Water-works," and amounts to Rs. 34,905 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 19,093 in Berar. The extension of the Village Sanitation Act to 19 villages in Berar relieved the District Boards of a considerable amount of expenditure on conservancy in large villages. The total expenditure on Civil works in the Central Provinces was Rs. 7,04,425 against Rs. 5,41,420 in the preceding year. The expenditure on roads and other items under the head "Communications" was Rs 1,95,000. The arrangements connected with the Divisional Local Fund Engineer system were hardly sufficiently advanced during the year under report for the organization to prove a complete success but considerable progress has been made in the organization throughout the Provinces since the close of the year. The amount spent on arboriculture in the Central Provinces was Rs. 14,166 against Rs. 15,399 in the preceding year and in Berar Rs. 13,440 against Rs. 11,244. The number of cattle-pounds in the Central Provinces was 955 and in Berar 303 against 909 and 299, respectively, in the preceding year. Both income and expenditure from pounds increased, the former by 17 per cent in the combined Provinces and the latter by 10 per cent. All charges on account of Veterinary dispensaries, except the pay of Veterinary Assistants which has now been provincialised, are met from District Funds. The working of the dispensaries was satisfactory.

10—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING)

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING)

The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles.

78. The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles are the only two Volunteer Corps in the Provinces. The enrolled strength of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles rose to 1,309, of whom 32 were Commissioned Officers. Of this total 1,215 were extra-efficient, 79 efficient and 15 non-efficient. Marksmen numbered 245 as compared with 239 in the previous year. There are 73 Reservists, all of whom were efficient. The financial position of the Corps was satisfactory. A Guard of Honour consisting of 2 officers, 4 non-commissioned officers and 100 men and a Mounted Infantry escort was furnished by the Corps on the 16th and 17th December 1912 during the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy to Nagpur. The Camp-of-Exercise was held from the 2nd to the 8th February 1913. The average attendance was 564 against 576 in the previous year, but the numbers actually living in the Camp were 624 of all ranks In November 1912 the Corps was inspected by the Inspector-General of Volunteers who was favourably impressed with the work done.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Volunteer Rifles.

79. The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Corps is divided into two Battalions, the first of which is under the administrative control of the Government of Bengal, with its head-quarters at Kharagpur, while the second has its head-quarters at Nagpur. The total enrolled strength of the latter on the 31st March 1913 was 558, of whom 313 (including 13 officers) are employed in the Central Provinces as against 298 in the previous year. Of these 294 were classed as extra-efficient, and 6 as non-efficient, marksmen numbering 67. The financial position of the Corps was satisfactory. During the year several field days were held in which Volunteers from all parts of the line took part. The Battalion joined in the Presidency Brigade manœuvres, held in the vicinity of Kharagpur, at the close of which the General Officer Commanding the Northern Army spoke in complimentary terms of the manner in which the Volunteers had carried out the operations.

CHAPTER IV
PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

AGRICULTURE

1—AGRICULTURE

[Reports on the working of the Department of Agriculture and on the Agricultural Stations of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th June 1913.]

Agriculture.

80. The operations of the Department were conducted during the year on lines that have already proved successful, and not much was attempted in the way of innovation. With only two Deputy Directors, the absence of one on leave necessitated that his charge should devolve temporarily on the Principal of the Agricultural College. The hope expressed last year regarding the entertainment of a third Deputy Director and an Assistant Director has been realised and the appointment of these officers has been sanctioned, though it has been possible hitherto to recruit only the former. Until the cadre of European experts has been filled and the new arrivals have had sufficient training under local conditions to enable them to undertake responsible work, it will be absolutely necessary for the Department to call a halt. With the present staff, however capable, it would be dangerous to attempt to open up any fresh lines of work, while the internal growth of the schemes already in progress and the further improvement of the existing farms will more than suffice to occupy fully the whole available energies of the Department.

Agricultural education.

81. The problem of obtaining boys of the true agricultural castes, with the necessary standard of education, for admission to the Agricultural College, and subsequently to the Department, is still as difficult of solution as ever. It would appear that boys must be encouraged from an earlier stage than that at which they are at present recruited, and a scheme is being worked out for selecting boys of agricultural castes from the Middle Schools and encouraging their general education by the aid of scholarships. The experiment is an interesting one and should receive close attention from District Officers, on whose assistance and local knowledge the Director will have very largely to rely To enable students to attain a reasonable standard in the more scientific and less practical subjects, the Principal of the College recently introduced a revision of the time tables, which, it is hoped, will have the desired effect. Veterinary science is also to receive increased attention in the revised scheme. The general management of the College was fully satisfactory, its healthy tone and neat appearance were very creditable, and discipline was thoroughly satisfactory.

An innovation during the year was the introduction of a course for the training of junior members of the Indian Civil Service in Agriculture, which was followed with keen interest. The experiment will be continued, and all junior members of the Civil Service, except those already under training for the Judicial Department, will be required to attend.

The *Agricultural and Co-operative Gazette* increased its circulation by 249 copies, most of the new subscribers being Co-operative Societies. The circulation is now 6,249 copies, of which 2,451 are in Marathi and 3,466 in Hindi, the small remainder of 332 being in English.

Agricultural enquiry and demonstration.

82. A great variety of work was done on the eight Government farms. Not only were their experimental functions most usefully performed, but it is also evident that, as a means of demonstration, they are centres of genuine interest to the agricultural population of the tracts which they serve. The season was not on the whole a very favourable one, but nevertheless very successful results were achieved. In particular the Akola cotton farm again paid a handsome profit, and that in spite of seasonal conditions which were somewhat adverse to success. The new Adhartal farm at Jubbulpore, by the interest that it has already aroused in the Jubbulpore Division, has fully justified its establishment. Another recently established farm is the somewhat remote one at Sindewahi in the Chanda district. Its main purpose is to demonstrate the possibilities of irrigation in a tract on which Government is spending large sums on tank schemes and in which the soil is particularly suited to the growth of sugar-cane. These Provinces are as yet of little importance in the matter of sugar

production, but the extension of cane cultivation in Chanda is a most promising scheme and a lease of land has recently been sanctioned in favour of a Company for the growth of the crop and the establishment of a central factory.

The establishment of private seed farms, for producing pure strains of cotton, til and wheat, proceeded apace during the year, and it is now not possible to give many of these more than general supervision. But here the co-operative movement is proving itself a most useful ally to agriculture, and the cohesion and discipline which are among its essential factors minimise the risk of failure attendant on individual backsliding from the high standard of effort that is required as a condition of departmental assistance. Agricultural Unions are being formed which not only engage to abide by rules issued by the Agricultural Department, but also pay for the services of practical agriculturists trained on the Government farms. In the Sihora tahsil of the Jubbulpore district, enterprise on these lines is already achieving a considerable measure of success, and a similar movement has been started in Betul, while in Berar some twenty-five unions have been recently started. The substantial and enterprising agriculturists of Berar now need little encouragement to grow almost exclusively the profitable rosea variety of cotton; but perhaps the most gratifying success of the Department is that achieved among the backward and hitherto stagnant population of Chhattisgarh. Here the cultivation of rice by transplantation, in place of the old wasteful methods, is advancing at a rate which gives reason to hope that, by the time that the canals now being constructed in that Division are in working order, the people will have learnt to turn to the most useful advantage the benefits which these canals will offer to them.

Cattle-breeding at Telinkheri and Powarkhera was successful in the quality of, and the prices obtained for, the stock produced; but the herd at the former place was somewhat seriously reduced by a severe outbreak of tick-fever and liver fluke. The causes of the latter disease could not reasonably have been foreseen, but the outbreak of the former could have been prevented by closer attention to the cleanliness of the stalls. The occurrence of these outbreaks was practically the only flaw in a year's otherwise efficient management. A modest but promising beginning has been made in the matter of starting private cattle-breeding farms, several of which have been started in Chhattisgarh, where the local cattle are miserably undersized.

District Associations.

83. The District Agricultural Associations are now being reformed on lines which will concentrate their work on prescribed and smaller areas with definite objects in view, and the reform is rendering them more useful and practical. In their earlier and less definite constitution they were useful as a means of bringing officers into touch with persons interested in modern agriculture; but now that their more enterprising members have become known, their efforts will not suffer by becoming more concentrated and less diffuse. Four of the farms are now centres at which annual Divisional meetings are held. These meetings which are largely attended by cultivators, many of whom come from long distances, are used as an opportunity for discussing local problems and for active demonstration of measures and methods recommended. In some cases the meetings have also been made an occasion for the public recognition of services rendered, or results achieved by practical agriculturists.

1 (*a*)—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

[Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the period from the 1st April 1912 to the 30th June 1913, and Statistics of British India, Part II, Commercial.]

Co-operative Societies.

84. The rapid growth of the co-operative movement during the last 15 months has necessitated an increase in the Registrar's staff, which was, however, not more than was sufficient to exercise that supervision of the movement which is necessary not only to keep it on safe lines, but to retain the trust and confidence of the public, so much of whose money has now been invested in co-operative institutions.

Classification of Societies.

85. The new classification of societies recently prescribed by the Government of India was adopted during the year.* According to this classification societies are divided into three main kinds—central, agricultural and non-agricultural. Central societies include Unions of societies, and societies whose dealings are chiefly (though not necessarily entirely) with other societies. Agricultural

societies are those (other than central) in which the majority of the members are agriculturists, or in which the object is mainly agricultural. Non-agricultural societies are those which cannot be classified either as central or agricultural. Societies are further divided into six different classes, *viz* (1) credit, (2) purchase, and purchase and sale, (3) production, (4) production and sale, (5) insurance and (6) other forms of co-operation. A further distinction is made in respect of liability whether limited or unlimited. The period was one of great activity. The number of societies of all kinds increased from 585 to 1,449 membership from 12,136 to 28,396 and working capital from 10¼ to 34½ lakhs of rupees. In several districts missionary work is no longer necessary and spontaneous applications for registration are the order of the day, while even in other districts where the movement is comparatively new, the first steps were taken by the people, and progress is limited only by the extent to which the Registrar can personally supervise the initial stages of the enterprise. At the same time, this rapid development was accompanied by a consistent policy of caution, and to this policy may be ascribed the stability which has been attained by existing societies. Even in the few cases where it was found advisable to cancel registration, no loss whatever was caused to creditors.

Working of Central Societies, Provincial and Central Banks.

86. The first complete year's working of the Provincial Bank was successful, and the whole of the first year's dividend was wisely carried to the reserve fund. The Bank with its strong financial backing and large reserve liability of shareholders, performs the useful function of rendering available to Central Banks the credit which it can itself obtain from Joint Stock Banks, thus enabling Central Banks to extend the responsible business of accepting deposits. The Provincial Bank also threw itself open during the year to deposits from the public. On the 1st April 1912 there were 20 Central Banks, while on the 30th June 1913 the number had increased by 5, new banks having been registered at Wardha, Yeotmal, Raipur, Mandla and Seoni. The total working capital held by Central Banks amounted to Rs. 14,09,692, of which Rs. 1,35,228 represented deposits by members. These banks are the centres of all co-operative enterprise within the areas which they serve, and considerable progress was made by them in enrolling among their shareholders the societies which rely on them, thus inducing the latter to take an active interest in the movement and enabling them to obtain a wider outlook on its real meaning. In Balaghat where the Central Bank was only registered in 1911, the number of societies under the bank rose from 79 to 141 and in the Crosthwaite Central Bank at Sihora, the numbers were 229 as against 159 in March 1912. In Akola the Central Bank, the working capital of which had increased from Rs. 21,901 to Rs. 1,41,319, financed 81 societies as against 26 in March 1912. Deposits by members nearly doubled, but, for evidence of the confidence with which the Central Banks are regarded, it is necessary to look to the deposits by non-members which amount to Rs. 3,33,979 as compared with Rs. 40,422 in the previous twelve months. Many Central Banks successfully handled the difficult question of paying off old debts by making debt conciliation a part of their operations. A most interesting feature of the period was the institution of the Union of Co-operative Banks for the purposes of supervision and audit. The Central Banks which form the Union employ salaried servants licensed by the Governor of the Union for the inspection and audit of the Societies which borrow from the Central Banks and the Societies themselves contribute to the maintenance of the staff by the small annual subscription of one rupee per member.

Agricultural Unions for production or production and sale.

Not much has hitherto been accomplished in the direction of co-operation for production and sale, but an excellent start has been made in the Unions of Co-operative Societies in Betul, Jubbulpore and Berar for the production of pure and improved varieties of seed and the introduction of modern implements.

Agricultural Societies, Unlimited.

87. Under this head fall the Rural Credit Societies with unlimited liability. These increased from 540 to 1,360, membership rose from 9,516 to 22,718 and working capital from Rs. 3,78,695 to Rs. 13,38,193. Of the 1,360 Societies 778 have purchased one or more shares in the Central Banks under which they work and the total of the investments made by the Credit Societies in these Provinces in the shape of reserve funds, members' deposits and shares in Central Banks purchased, increased during the 15 months from Rs. 57,000 to Rs. 1,16,400. These societies proved themselves punctual payers of their debts to the Central Banks.

88. Non-agricultural Societies with limited liability are very few in number, the total number at the close of the year being 7 only. These societies are as a rule, less successful in grasping the true co-operative spirit and it is anticipated that two of them will shortly disappear. The only societies that did well, and made progress were the Nagpur Government Press Society, the Agricultural Office Society and the Urban Society at Hatta, in the Balaghat district, the business of the last having doubled during the 15 months. An attempt is being made at the latter place by an unregistered society to solve the problem of cattle insurance. **Non-agricultural Societies Credit, Limited**

89. Under this head fall the societies of the Raiffeisen type composed of petty artisans and traders. During the 15 months the number of these Societies had risen from 11 to 43, membership from 141 to 554 and working capital from Rs. 4,217 to Rs. 24,352. There were at the close of the year 23 societies of weavers, 4 of dyers, 4 of goldsmiths, 2 of brass workers 4 of basket-makers and 6 of petty traders. **Non-agricultural Societies Credit, Unlimited.**

90. No Government loan was made during the year and the total amount due to Government at the close of the year amounted to only Rs. 886. There is every hope that the movement will remain as at present, independent of direct financial assistance from Government. **Resources**

1 (*b*)—VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

[Report on the working of the Civil Veterinary Department, Central Provinces, for the year ending the 31st March 1913.]

91. The total expenditure of the Department during the year was practically the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, rather over one and-a-half lakhs; but in that year there had been a considerable expansion in expenditure, which was explained at the time. Even now the expenditure is greatly below the needs of the Department in these Provinces, where its work is annually extending and growing in importance and public esteem. During the year the Government of India sanctioned an improved cadre for the Provincial Veterinary Establishment, which will ultimately, when fully worked up to, entail an added recurring charge to Provincial Revenues of nearly Rs. 45,000 per annum, thus bringing the annual expenditure to more than two lakhs. The outlines of this scheme were sketched in last year's Administration Report. The improved cadre includes six posts of Deputy Superintendents, one for each Division, with an additional Deputy Superintendent who will have no Divisional duties, but will be free to help the Superintendent in various ways. A representation has been made to the Government of India for a second permanent Superintendent, and it is hoped that this will be sanctioned shortly. Inspection work and touring by Veterinary Inspectors was in most cases adequate and satisfactory. **Veterinary Department.**

92. The outstanding feature of the year was the general prolonged and virulent epidemic of rinderpest, which resulted in some 25,340 recorded deaths (as against 5,720 in the preceding year). Even this large figure is believed to understate the loss of agricultural stock. Inoculation was undertaken in 1,723 outbreaks and 214,304 animals were treated. Of this large number of animals inoculated, only 130 deaths have been recorded, but this latter figure is considered unreliable. There was a marked decline in losses from other common contagious diseases—black-quarter, hæmorrhagic septicæmia, foot and mouth diseases, and anthrax, only 4,252 deaths being recorded under these as against 8,799 in the previous year. There was, as compared with the figures of the preceding year, a marked decline of 22,000 in the number of contagious cases (excluding rinderpest inoculations) treated on tour. But this relief was partly negatived by an increase of non-contagious cases by 9,000, quite apart from the wholly unusual burden imposed upon the Veterinary Staff by over 200,000 inoculations. The work, on the whole, was far heavier than that of the preceding year, and every acknowledgment is due to the staff for their exertions. Owing to a liberal special grant to these Provinces from the Government of India, it has been possible to make a considerable expansion in the Provincial programme of construction of Veterinary Dispensary buildings. A sum of Rs. 90,000 has been allotted for additional expenditure and Local Bodies have been invited to co-operate where possible, which it is expected they will do and thereby show that they realize their responsibility in this particular direction for the betterment of the people.

Chap. IV
WEATHER AND CROPS

2—WEATHER AND CROPS

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1912-13; area and yield of certain principal crops in India, 1912-13, and Agricultural Statistics of India, Vol. I.]

Rainfall.

93. The monsoon commenced with a weak current late in the month of June and the total rainfall during the month was less than usual everywhere. In the west of the Central Provinces the actual fall was barely one-seventh of the average, and in the east only one quarter, but in Berar it was not far short of the normal. Insufficiency of rainfall restricted sowings somewhat in parts of certain districts. In July and August there was an increase in the activity of the monsoon, resulting in the whole of the Provinces receiving good and well distributed rain. Agricultural operations were, however, retarded in places owing to continuous rain which damaged cotton to some extent in Narsinghpur and several villages of the Wardha and Hinganghat tahsils. An opportune break with occasional light showers in the latter part of August, however, enabled agriculturists to resume operations. A prolonged break causing some anxiety then followed in September, but crop prospects were much improved by timely showers towards the end of the month. October passed practically dry, except for a few light local showers, and this early cessation of the rains reduced considerably the outturn of all autumn crops on light soils, particularly in the Nimar district, where the rainfall was scanty. The drought also affected late sown rice in Chhattisgarh and gave rise to apprehensions of shortage of fodder and water in the Nimar, Amraoti, Akola and Buldana districts. In the third week of November there was a sharp fall of rain in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions, the rest of the Provinces receiving light showers. This heavy fall of rain caused considerable damage to kharif crops in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions: the damaged crops were ploughed up and replaced by rabi crops, chiefly wheat. December and January gave a sprinkling of rain which was accompanied by hail in Jubbulpore, Narsinghpur and Buldana, but did no damage. The weather was otherwise seasonable and favoured the prospects of an excellent spring crop. During the months of February and March light to moderate rain was received throughout the Provinces and was again accompanied by hail in several districts, causing damage in a limited number of villages and retarding the harvesting, threshing and winnowing of rabi crops. Most districts saw little or no rain in April or May and this facilitated the gathering of the spring harvest. The average rainfall during the year for the Central Provinces as a whole was 45·42 inches, as compared with 48·51 which is the average for 45 years. For Berar the total rainfall during the year averaged 27·71 inches as against 29·97 the average for 19 years. All districts, except Mandla, Wardha, Nagpur, Bhandara and Yeotmal received less than the average rainfall.

Character of the season.

94. The kharif area of the Central Provinces decreased by 210,000 acres (2 per cent). Heavy and continuous rain restricted kharif sowings in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions, where the shrinkage amounted to 191,000 and 49,000 acres, respectively; also kharif crops which had been damaged by the heavy November rain were replaced by rabi. The area remained practically the same as in 1911-12 in the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions. The late arrival of the monsoon and heavy and continuous rain, when it did arrive, caused a contraction of 104,000 acres in East Berar, but about half of this was counterbalanced by the increases in West Berar. The rabi area, both in the Central Provinces and Berar, decreased by 710,000 acres, or as much as 8 per cent. There were increases of 36,000 and 79,000 acres in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions, respectively, which were partly due to the fact that kharif crops, which were damaged by excessive and continuous rain, were ploughed up and substituted by spring crops and partly to the sowing season being favourable. A considerable area remained unsown in the other three Divisions, especially in Chhattisgarh for want of moisture in the soil owing to early cessation of rain. The decrease of 562,000 acres in Chhattisgarh is mainly in rabi sown as a second crop in the moist rice fields without ploughing them up: the outturn in such fields is rarely large.

Yield of the autumn (kharif) crops.

95. *Rice.*—The area under rice in the Central Provinces increased by 187,600 acres or 4 per cent. The conditions at sowing time were generally favourable to an extension of the area under rice; but owing to the rainfall being

unseasonable and unevenly distributed, the outturn was unsatisfactory compared with that of the previous year. Raipur was the only district in which the yield of transplanted rice was a full one. Transplanted rice did better than broadcast. For the Central Provinces as a whole, the outturn of broadcast and transplanted rice amounted to 83 and 92 per cent, respectively, as compared with 108 and 107 in the preceding year.

Juar.—Juar, which is largely grown as a mixture with arhar occupied 1,490,000 acres in the Central Provinces or 91,000 acres (6 per cent) less than the area sown in the previous year. In Berar the area increased slightly by 15,000 acres or one per cent. Continuous and heavy rainfall at sowing time, defective germination and consequent resowing with rabi crops mainly accounted for the contraction in area. The crop suffered somewhat from excessive and continuous rain. Of the important juar-growing districts only Betul, Nagpur, Chanda, Akola, Amraoti and Buldana had an outturn equal or superior to that of the previous year. For both the Central Provinces and Berar the total estimated yield was slightly below that of 1911-12.

Cotton.—In the Central Provinces the area sown with cotton covered 1,482,800 acres as compared with 1,525,500 last year, a decrease of 42,700 acres or 3 per cent. In Berar the area fell from 3,244,000 to 3,138,000 or by 106,000 acres (3 per cent). The decrease was shared by all districts, except Nimar, Betul, Nagpur, Chanda, Bhandara, Raipur, Bilaspur and Amraoti. Heavy and continuous rain damaged the crop and a considerable area of cotton had to be ploughed up. On the whole the climatic conditions were not suitable for cotton. Mandla, Balaghat, Nagpur and Chanda had a normal crop, but the production in the first two districts is insignificant. Amraoti alone reaped a full harvest. Elsewhere the estimated outturn of cotton ranged from 59 to 95 per cent of a normal crop.

Til.—The area under til in the Central Provinces decreased by 114,000 acres or 14 per cent, while Berar shows a small increase of 5,000 acres or 7 per cent. Fields sown with til of which the germination was spoilt by excessive rain were ploughed up and resown with winter crops; this was especially the case in Saugor, Jubbulpore, Seoni, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Betul and Amraoti. In Amraoti and the districts of the Nagpur country where climatic conditions were generally favourable, the yield ranged from 100 to 137 per cent of a normal crop. In Jubbulpore, Narsinghpur and Mandla the yield ranged between 37 and 45 in American notation. In the remaining districts the yield varied from 55 to 90 per cent of a normal crop. For the Central Provinces and Berar together, a little over three-fourths of the normal crop was reaped against 90 per cent in 1911-12.

Wheat.—The area placed under wheat and wheat gram in the Central Provinces amounted to 3,582,000 acres and exceeded the previous year's figures by 51,000 acres or one per cent. The area increased in seven districts, shrank slightly in three and remained the same as in the preceding year in two districts. The increase was due to favourable conditions at sowing time. Moreover the rainfall in November induced agriculturists to substitute wheat for kharif crops, which were ploughed up owing to the damage caused by heavy rain or lack of moisture. Insufficiency of moisture also accounted for the contraction in area of 15,000 acres in Berar. In Wardha, Nagpur, Amraoti, Yeotmal and the districts of the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions the outturn ranged from a normal (100) to a full crop (120). Narsinghpur had a yield of 130 per cent and many villages in that district secured a bumper crop. The outturn in Saugor was considered the best for 20 years. In the remaining districts the yield ranged from 60 to 86 per cent. For both the Central Provinces and Berar together, the outturn amounted to 106 against 90 in the preceding year.

Linseed.—The area under linseed shrank by 305,000 acres (17 per cent) in the Central Provinces and by 39,000 (29 per cent) in Berar when compared with the preceding year. The shrinkage in area in the districts of the Chhattisgarh Division where linseed is grown as a second crop was due to insufficiency of moisture in the soil. Unfavourable climatic conditions at sowing time in Chanda, Bhandara, Balaghat and Jubbulpore and the lack of moisture in Akola, Amraoti and Buldana mainly accounted for the decrease in those districts. The

WEATHER AND CROPS

replacement of spoilt cotton by linseed in Wardha and high prices realized last year were the principal reasons for the expansion in area. Owing to lack of moisture and other causes the yield in the important linseed growing districts of the Chhattisgarh tract did not exceed 80 per cent of the normal. In the remaining districts the outturn ranged between 49 and 91 in American notation For the Central Provinces and Berar as a whole 89 per cent of a normal crop was harvested against 73 in 1911-12.

HORTICULTURE.

3—HORTICULTURE

[Report on the management of the Provincial and District Gardens of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1912-13.]

Horticulture. Provincial Gardens.

96. The season was again an unfavourable one for the Maharajbagh Garden owing to prolonged drought in the autumn and winter months, but greater success was achieved than during the previous year, as the water-supply was less uncertain. The old Maratha aqueduct behaved better, and before the end of March the new main from Telinkheri was in working order. Vegetables were somewhat unsuccessful, but fruit did fairly well. During the year the number of plants supplied rose from 26,125 to 44,650, largely owing to the needs of the Tharsa and Sindewahi Farms. The receipts of this garden rose by Rs. 2,377 while its expenditure fell by Rs. 1,697. There were many casualties in the menagerie. An outbreak of rinderpest carried off no less than 49 chital, sambhar and nilgai. The menagerie has now been placed under the control of the Principal of the Agricultural College, while the care of the animals has been entrusted to a Veterinary Assistant specially trained at the Calcutta Zoological Gardens. At the Telinkheri Garden there was improvement in every direction. Receipts rose from Rs. 951 to Rs. 1,636, while expenditure fell from Rs. 5,273 to Rs. 5,063. The increase in receipts was largely due to success with vegetables which owing to greater facilities for irrigation did much better than at the Maharajbagh.

The Botanical Garden continues to be useful to students of botany, and helps considerably to improve the surroundings of the Agricultural College. The Pachmarhi and Pagara Gardens had a very successful year in spite of the damage done in Pachmarhi by a very severe hail-storm in February. This hail-storm had an interesting result. It knocked off a good deal of young fruit from the peach and plum trees, but the fruit that remained came on excellently, and the peaches especially were the best that have ever been grown at Pachmarhi. Deterioration of the orange crop at Pagara is being dealt with by manuring with bone-dust, and the results are awaited. The financial results of these gardens showed further improvement and the percentage of receipts to expenditure rose from 67 to 75. The gardens adequately met the heavy demand on them during the residental season, while the large cold weather supply of English vegetables found a ready sale in Jubbulpore.

District Gardens

97. Owing to a shortage of the later monsoon rains and to prolonged drought in the winter, the season was a very unfavourable one in most of the southern and western districts, especially in Nimar and the districts of Berar; in the north of the Provinces good cold weather rain made conditions more favourable, though the hail-storms of February did damage in some of the gardens. The receipts of the gardens rose from Rs. 9,998 in 1911-12 to Rs. 11,370, while expenditure rose from Rs. 32,345 to Rs. 35,820. The number of plants sold and distributed was 7,457 against 7,189 during the previous year.

FORESTS

4—FORESTS

[Reports from the Conservators of Forests of the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles, on the Forest Administration in the Central Provinces and Berar, for the year 1912-13, with the review thereon, and Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*), Finance and Revenue.]

Forest areas.

98. At the close of the year the total area of forest under the control of the Forest Department was 20,572 square miles as compared with 21,038 square miles at the beginning, or a net decrease of 466 square miles. The areas of A class forests of the Central Provinces and of the A and B classes of Berar were almost the same as in the preceding year, but there was a reduction of 428 square miles in the area of B class forests, due mainly to disforestment in Nimar and Betul for ryotwari settlements. In Berar good progress was made during the year in the disforestment of the small C class areas which were not worth administering as Government forest, but were useful as additions to the village grazing grounds.

The area finally settled during the year amounted to 14·5 square miles while nineteen square miles were still undergoing settlement at the close of the year. An area of 32 acres in North Chanda, which had been shown under settlement for several years, was excluded during the year as it was found to be undesirable to afforest the area in question. In addition proceedings under the Land Acquisition Act were started for the acquisition of various plots in Yeotmal and Akola with the object of creating them reserved forests.

Demarcation and Survey.

99. The total expenditure on demarcation during the year was Rs. 23,585 against Rs. 19,309 in the preceding year. 43 miles of new demarcation were carried out at a cost of Rs. 252, but the length of 170 miles in the new reserves in the Melghat still remained over at the close of the year. Progress was made more particularly in Saugor in the simplification of boundaries, several exchanges of land with malguzars being made with this object during the year. The five-year schemes for the upkeep of boundaries were sanctioned for the Jubbulpore, Damoh, Hoshangabad and Chhindwara Divisions. The Saugor scheme has been kept pending the revision and simplification of boundaries now in progress. For the rest of the Province as a whole the schemes were worked up to except in the case of the North Chanda and Raipur Divisions.

The work carried out in Berar by the Survey of India, Party No. 6, comprised 124 square miles in Yeotmal, 97 square miles in Akola and 154 square miles in Buldana, with interior details on the 2-inch scale and boundary surveys on the 4-inch scale of 380 and 605 linear miles in Akola and Buldana, respectively. In the Melghat Division Rs. 699 were spent on surveying the interior details of 44 forest villages, and a number of local surveys of forest villages was carried out in various Divisions of the Southern Circle. The total expenditure on the constitution of State Forests was Rs. 60,508 as compared with Rs. 41,584 in 1911-12, the Northern Circle being responsible for the entire increase owing to the purchase of Indpuria and Singora Malguzari villages in the Hoshangabad Division at a cost of Rs. 20,000. The compensation paid to the Melghat Rajas for forest rights amounted to Rs. 15,557 as usual.

Working-plans.

100. No new working-plans were published during the year. Nevertheless good progress was made; the plans for the Nagpur-Wardha, South Chanda, Nimar and Buldana Divisions being completed though not issued during the year. Owing to the deputation of the officer concerned to the Imperial Forest College and the fact that there was no other officer available for the work, much progress could not be made with the working-plan for the Melghat Division, while the Akola plan was still under compilation. A beginning was made on the field work of the Yeotmal Working-plan. A new working scheme for the Garhakota high forest of the Saugor Division was prepared and a rough scheme for the Khanat Sal forests of the South Mandla Division was also compiled. Orders were also passed on the reports of the special revenue officers in connection with the Nimar, Chhindwara and Bilaspur plans.

Roads, buildings, tanks and wells.

101. The expenditure incurred during the year on new communications was Rs. 65,417 as compared with Rs. 43,984 in the previous year. In all 517 miles were constructed, composed of 210 miles of regular cart roads, 55 miles of coupe and feeder roads, 18 miles of inspection paths and 234 miles of alignments with road traces. The cost of regular cart roads was Rs. 294 per mile as against 325 in 1911-12, while the average cost per mile over all classes of communications was Rs. 126 as against Rs. 75 in 1911-12 and Rs. 146 in 1910-11. Under repairs the expenditure was Rs. 31,881 against Rs. 23,365 in the previous year. A special grant of Rs. 50,000 was allotted to the Forest Department during the year for road works. Out of this amount a sum of Rs. 35,000 was made over to the Public Works Department for the construction of a substantial causeway over the Wainganga river in Chanda where the difficulties of crossing the river have hitherto prevented the proper exploitation of the Allapilli teak forest. The expenditure on buildings during the year amounted to Rs. 85,777, which exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 11,308. The increase was shared by all circles. Out of this sum Rs. 58,493 was spent on new works and Rs. 26,779 on repairs. Good progress was made in almost every Circle in housing the subordinate staff, 68 per cent of the total outlay of Rs. 58,493 having been spent on

this work. The question of standard plans for Range Assistants' quarters was discussed in the Conservators' Conference held in June 1913, and an experiment to decide on a suitable plan is in progress. Out of the special grant of one lakh of rupees allotted to the Forest Department a sum of Rs. 40,000 was placed at the disposal of the Public Works Department for the construction of new buildings for the Forest School at Balaghat. The expenditure on tanks and wells and other miscellaneous works fell by Rs. 10,000 during the year, the decrease occurring chiefly in the Berar Circle. The amount spent on new tanks was Rs. 9,098 and on new wells Rs. 14,185, the expenditure on repairs being Rs. 3,073 and Rs. 3,956 respectively.

Forest offences.

102. The total number of forest offences reported during the year was 10,663 which exceeded the average of the past 3 years by 1,560, and those of 1911-12 by 1,737. Of the total number of cases 2 per cent were taken into Court, 87 per cent were compounded, 3 per cent were undetected and 8 per cent were pending at the close of the year. Of the cases taken into Court, convictions were obtained in 86, 76 and 75 per cent in the Berar, Northern and Southern Circles, respectively, the percentage for the Province as a whole being the same as last year, *viz.*, 79. The number of cases of injury by fire decreased by 114 or 30 per cent, but there was an increase in the number of offences under all other heads. The number of cases compounded was 9,887, and the average compensation realized per case and per person was, respectively, Rs. 8-5-1 and Rs. 3-1-4 in the Northern Circle, Rs. 8-2-0 and Rs. 2-7-0 in the Southern Circle and Rs. 6-0-4 and Rs. 2-5-0 in the Berar Circle, but in the Southern Circle, the compensation varied from Rs. 1-3-7 per head in North Chanda to Rs. 3-15-9 per head in Balaghat.

Protection from fire.

103. The area over which protection was attempted rose from 11,149 square miles in 1911-12 to 11,558 square miles in 1912-13. The success attained in fire protection during the year was very satisfactory, 98 per cent of the area under protection having been successfully protected. There were in all 221 fires burning an area of 116,776 acres during the year against 307 which covered 246,480 acres in the preceding year. Practically complete success was attained in protection in the Akola, Amraoti, Yeotmal, North Mandla and Hoshangabad Divisions, the results being very good also in South Chanda, Bhandara, Melghat and Buldana, but in Damoh and Raipur the percentages of failure were 10 and 5, respectively. In the latter Division one fire, which spread from the Madras border, burnt 19 square miles. The average cost per square mile of fire protection for the Province fell from Rs. 10-4-7 in the preceding year to Rs. 9-14-11 in the year under report. The highest cost (Rs. 18-0-10) was in the Amraoti Division, in which Division the cost of protection is always high owing to the small areas of the reserves.

Exploitation, sylviculture and management.

104. The areas in which the various methods of treatment were employed during the year in the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles were 40,908, 59,137 and 52,043 acres respectively, making a total of 152,088 acres, and showing a satisfactory increase of 16,715 acres mostly in the Berar and Southern Circles in the area subjected to systematic fellings. Good progress was made in cutting back operations, and coppice reproduction was good in almost all Divisions save in the Berar Circle, where only in Betul and parts of Akola Division the growth was satisfactory. Unregulated fellings also were made in C class areas of Berar proper and in the nistar areas of the Betul and Nimar Divisions, while in the Northern Circle these fellings were carried out in all the Divisions except Chhindwara, and were restricted generally to the nistar areas as well as to those in which the prescriptions of the regular working plans were held in abeyance. In the Mandla Division these fellings were permitted to the extent of removal of teak and saj timber from excised areas and ryotwari waste. For the Province as a whole the number of cattle in Government forest grazed fell from 4,404,249 to 4,236,758, or a decrease of 167,491. There was an increase of 81,393 in the number of animals grazed in the forests of the Berar Circle, but the number in the Northern and Southern Circles showed a decrease of 213,547 cattle and 35,337 cattle, respectively. Although the number of cattle grazed decreased, the total value of the grazing at full rates showed an increase of Rs. 4,64,251, the increase in the revenue actually realized being Rs. 3,41,038 due

to the introduction of the new grazing rates in the Central Provinces proper. The new grazing rules were reported to be working smoothly and successfully and the rise in rates not to be burdensome to the people. The question of revising the rules to prevent an excess number of ploughs over the number of actual "working" ploughs being claimed by agriculturists in order to increase the number of cattle at privileged rates is under consideration. The average grazing incidence per head of cattle in the Northern and Southern Circles was 3·2 and 4 acres per head, respectively. In the A class forests of the Berar Circle the maximum and minimum incidences were 7·2 in the Melghat and 1·2 in the Amraoti Divisions, respectively, while in C class forest the incidence was, as usual, less than one acre per head. Excluding the areas closed to grazing throughout the year, the average incidence for the Province as a whole was 2·6 acres. In the Central Province proper the number of animals grazed at privileged rates was 1,170,871 against 1,283,247 grazed at full rates, while 26,950 cattle grazed free, the respective numbers for the preceding year being 1,062,614, 1,289,513 and 19,695. In Berar the number grazed at privileged rates was 200, at full rates 1,548,610 and free 206,880. The total value of the grazing concessions in the three Circles amounted to Rs. 4,34,081 against 3,10,868 in the last year. There was a very satisfactory increase of 2,564,986 cubic feet in the outturn of timber mainly in the Northern and Southern Circles, and there was also a considerable increase in the outturn of fuel to which all Circles contributed. The proportions of the total outturn removed by Government Agency were timber 9·5 per cent and fuel 4·4 per cent as compared with 11·5 and 6 per cent, respectively, in the preceding year. The total value of minor produce removed from the forests during the year rose by Rs. 2,40,720 for which the grazing receipts were responsible. There was, however, a fall in the value of grass which was due to the cessation of operations for the supply of grass to the Bombay Presidency though receipts of Rs. 54,000 in the Northern Circle are included. Excluding the revenue derived from these operations from the figures of both 1911-12 and 1912-13 the results of the year under report were very favourable, the increase being Rs. 4,12,752 which was shared by all the Circles. Attempts to induce agriculturists to buy baled grass were continued during the year, but the results were somewhat disappointing in all three Circles.

Financial Results.

105. In comparison with the results of the previous year, if the revenue and expenditure in connection with operations undertaken to supply fodder grass to the famine distressed districts of the Bombay Presidency be omitted from both the years, during 1912-13 the revenue increased by Rs. 5,79,096, and the expenditure and the surplus rose by Rs. 1,53,585 and Rs. 4,25,511, respectively, the percentage of the net revenue to gross revenue being 39 against 31. This appreciable increase, for nearly the whole of which timber and grazing were responsible, has been contributed by all the three Circles. In this connection the Southern Circle has shown a great improvement, the surplus being Rs. 3,19,912 against Rs. 87,084 in the preceding year and a deficit of Rs. 35,522 in 1910-11. The increase in the grazing revenue was, as pointed out, due to the introduction of the new grazing rules, while better prices from sales of coupes and the payment of the first instalment of the lease money by the Allapilli contractor in the South Chanda Division and by the Bengal Timber Trading Company in the Balaghat Division went to raise the income from timber. The grass operations referred to above, which during the year were confined to the Northern and Berar Circles, yielded a revenue of Rs. 1,02,636, while Rs. 86,060 was spent on them, leaving a profit of Rs. 16,576. The reorganisation of the subordinate establishment has long been felt as a crying need of the Department, but has hitherto been delayed until forest revenues should show sufficient recovery to warrant the high expenditure involved. In view of the increased revenue and the financial position shown by the report of the year, the Administration was able to submit for the approval of the Government of India orders giving effect to such parts of this long required reform as relate to Forest Rangers and Forest Guards. The remainder of the scheme was necessarily left over for a future occasion. The pay of the clerical staff also needs improvement, but this can probably be effected at small cost by a reduction in the number of clerks accompanied by an improvement in the pay of the posts retained.

MINES AND QUARRIES

5—MINES AND QUARRIES

[Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces for the calendar year 1912, and Part I of the Statistics of British India.]

Collieries.

106. The number of coal mines in active work during the year remained the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 4. The total output of coal was 234,000 tons valued at Rs. 9,61,000 as against 212,000 tons valued at Rs. 8,50,000 in 1911. There was a satisfactory increase of 27,000 tons of coal from the Chhindwara mines and an advance in its average price from Rs. 2-9-10 to Rs. 3-6-4. The Mohpani output again increased by about 5,000 tons. The Ballarpur Mine turned out some 10,000 tons less than in 1911, and this was due to a reduction in the number of working days owing to local outbreaks, first of plague and later of cholera. This mine has been sold to a private firm since the close of the year with the previous sanction of the Government of India. The coal mines gave employment to 2,530 persons.

Manganese Mining

107. The number of manganese mines was 28 as against 29 in the previous year. The industry remained somewhat depressed, the output decreasing from approximately 343,000 tons valued at Rs. 16,33,000 to 323,000 tons valued at Rs. 14,72,000. There was a marked increase from the Chhindwara Mines which, however, still remain unimportant by comparison with some of the large mines in the Nagpur Division. The reduced output is ascribed not to any diminution of demand, but to insufficiency of labour. The rise in ocean freights, owing to the state of war prevailing in Europe, resulted in an increase in the price received, but this increase was not by any means commensurate with the rise in freights. Value at the pit's mouth varies greatly from mine to mine, and depends largely on the length of lead to the line of rail. For the Province as a whole the value per ton is returned at Rs. 4-9-0 as compared with Rs. 4-12-0 for 1911. Manganese mining afforded as usual the largest amount of employment, the total number of persons employed being 6,196.

Miscellaneous.

108. The remaining mines, with the sole exception of that for wolframite at Agargaon in the Nagpur district, in which a fresh start has been made on a small scale, consist of 25 quarries in the Jubbulpore district, *viz.*, 18 limestone, and 7 Fuller's earth, pottery clay, soapstone, bauxite and iron ore excavations. The output of limestone remained practically the same as in 1911, about 90,000 tons : the value at the pit's mouth shows a fall from one rupee to ten annas ; but this is only apparent, for the calculations were inaccurate last year, and the Deputy Commissioner, Jubbulpore, has taken pains to obtain a correct valuation in 1912. The number of labourers employed in the limestone quarries and in the mines for pottery clay, soapstone, etc., was 2,807. With the exception of outbreaks of plague and cholera at Kodegaon and Ballarpur, and a few cases of plague at the Mohpani Colliery the health of all labourers remained good. The number of serious accidents decreased from 20 to 10 during the year, and the number of lives lost was three against five in the previous year. None of these accidents was due to culpable negligence on the part of the management. There were no prosecutions under the Act. 68 prospecting licenses and 34 mining leases were granted as against 137 prospecting licenses and 40 mining leases in the previous year

MANUFACTURES

6—MANUFACTURES

[Reports on the working of the Factories Acts (XV of 1881 and XII of 1911) in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1912, and Part I of Statistics for British India.]

Number of Factories, Employees Accidents

109. The year 1912 marks an important era in Factory Administration on account of the introduction of the new Factories Act (Act XII of 1911) into the Central Provinces with effect from July 1st. The old Act (XV of 1881) still remained in force in Berar. The most noticeable result of the coming into force of the new Act is the rise in the number of factories borne on the district registers in the Central Provinces from 133 to 171, many of which are seasonal ones which have for the first time come within the purview of the law. The total number of factories in the Province rose from 363 to 479, but out of this total no less than 49 remained closed in Berar throughout the year. The total number of operatives rose from 41,838 to 47,269. The total number of accidents showed a slight rise from 167 to 172, but the number of fatal and serious accidents showed a satisfactory decrease from 12 and 50 in 1911 to 5 and 37 in 1912. Wages again continued to rule very high.

110. The number of prosecutions was 51 of which 41 resulted in convictions. The corresponding figures for 1911 were 22 and 15. The total number of factories left uninspected during the year was 55.

7—TRADE

TRADE

[Report on the Rail-borne Traffic of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March 1913, and Volume of Prices and Wages in India.]

General

111. The climatic conditions were not so favourable as in the preceding year. Omitting animals and treasure, the total rail-borne traffic of the year amounted to 66¾ millions of maunds valued at 35½ crores of rupees as compared with 60¾ millions of maunds valued at 36½ crores of rupees in the preceding year. There was a general rise in the price of food-grains, especially gram, the average price of which rose from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 3-1-0 per maund, owing to the strong demand by manufacturers of patent foods. Linseed declined from Rs. 8-6-0 to Rs. 7-7-0, and there was a temporary drop in the price of cotton from Rs. 26-12-0 to Rs. 26-4-0, in response to American conditions.

Imports.

112. The bulk of imports increased from 20¾ to 25¾ millions of maunds or by 25 per cent and their value from 12 to 13½ crores. Except under the heads jute and salt which show some decrease, increases are noticeable under coal and coke, manufactured cotton goods, raw cotton, metals, kerosine oil, sugar, railway plant and rolling stock, tea and wood. Most but not all of the increase under coal and coke is attributed to a greater railway demand. The main increase in coal imported for other than railway purposes, which is due to the greater activity of the cotton trade, comes from Bengal. There is little change in the value and quantity of manufactured cotton imported. European piece goods showed a slight decline in value and Indian piece goods a slight increase, while a more important relative change showed itself as between European and Indian yarns and twists, the value of the European yarn declining from 59 to 49 lakhs, and that of Indian yarn rising from 14 to 18 lakhs Under metals the imports of unwrought brass (chiefly brass sheets from Bombay for making hollow ware) again show a large rise, the figures in thousands of rupees being 8·61 in 1911 and 14·92 in 1912. The increase is phenomenal and points to great prosperity in the brass trade. The quantity of kerosine oil imported has increased, but there has been a small decline in value. The imports of tea increased by 24 per cent and of sugar by 10 per cent. The imports of salt fell from 2,738,000 to 2,491,000 maunds. Perhaps the year was a little less prosperous than the preceding one, but the difference would hardly account for the decline. The slight decline in imports under jute corresponds to the slightly lessened activity of the grain and raw cotton trade.

Exports.

113. The bulk of exports increased from 40 to 41 millions of maunds or by 2½ per cent, but the value declined from 24½ to 22 crores of rupees. The chief increases were in manufactured cotton, hides and skins, and manganese ore, while raw cotton, grain and pulse, oil-seeds and *ghi* showed decreases. The exports of manufactured cotton show a rise in price from 9,106 to 9,858 lakhs of rupees. The reports of the Bombay Mill-owners' Association shows an increase in the yarn production in the Central Provinces and Berar from 27¾ to 33½ millions of pounds and in woollen goods from 12 to 13 millions of pounds. The rise in the export of manganese ore from 7 to 15 millions of maunds was caused by the general improvement in the iron and engineering trade in Europe and America accentuated by the effects of the Turkish war and the difficulties put in the way of the transit of the Dardanelles. Raw cotton, which formed 52 per cent of the total exports of the Province last year, contributed only 45 per cent during the year. There was a small decrease of 6 per cent in the quantity of grain and pulse exported, but the rise in prices gave an increase in value under this head of 16 per cent. Under gram and pulse, however, an increase is noticeable from 2¼ to 2½ millions of maunds. Only 4½ millions of maunds of wheat were exported during 1912-13 against 5½ millions of maunds in the preceding year. Exports of oil-seeds decreased from 7 to 4¼ millions of maunds. *Ghi* rose steadily in price throughout the year from Rs. 47-2-0 to Rs. 55 per maund, but the decline from 74,000 to 35,000 maunds is not easy to account for accompanied, as it is, by a fall in the internal *ghi* trade. Possibly the severe epidemic of cattle disease may be one of the causes.

8—PUBLIC WORKS

[Administration Report on the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department for 1912-13 and Statistics of British India, Part III (*IV*) (*b*).]

114. The allotment for the year was Rs. 75,33,803 of which Rs. 1,89,470 was for Imperial works, Rs. 64,02,000 for Provincial works and Rs. 9,42,333 for Contribution works. The expenditure under Imperial works was Rs. 1,84,542, under Provincial works Rs. 65,40,456 and under Contribution works Rs. 5,39,809.

Imperial Works

115. The construction of the Post Office at Nagpur was still in progress and an expenditure of Rs. 80,654 was incurred during the year. Other important Imperial works in progress were the Post and Telegrapn Audit Office, a bungalow for the Postmaster-General, Central Circle, at Nagpur, and a combined Post and Telegraph Office at Jalgaon The expenditure during the year on the work of additions and alterations to the Pro-Cathedral at Nagpur was Rs. 27,131.

Provincial Works.

116. The expenditure on Provincial works was divided as follows:—

		Rs.
Original works	...	32,45,295
Maintenance	...	20,99,844
Establishment	...	9,51,319
Tools and plant	...	2,08,910
Suspense	...	35,088
Total	...	65,40,456

The principal works carried out are detailed below.

Buildings.

117. The construction of the Forest Office at Chanda was completed at a cost of Rs. 14,049. The existing Forest Divisional Office at Chhindwara was remodelled, and certain additions and alterations to the Forest Office at Seoni were carried out, the total outlay on these works being Rs. 10,604. The Forest Divisional Officer's bungalow at Saugor, commenced in the previous year, was completed at a cost of Rs. 17,313, and materials were collected for the construction of a new bungalow for the Forest Divisional Officer at Chhindwara. Rs. 64,433 was spent on Land Revenue buildings, the construction of the tahsils at Katol, Bhandara, Balapur, Khurai and Amarwara being completed during the year. The construction of the new distillery buildings at Badnur was taken in hand, and the expenditure incurred was Rs. 30,390. Electric lights and fans were installed at Government House, Nagpur, at a cost of Rs 26,062, and the new supper room and extensions to the stables, etc., at the Residency at Pachmarhi were completed at a total cost of Rs. 14,154. Further progress was made on the drainage scheme of the Secretariat buildings, and the expenditure incurred amounted to Rs. 17,976.

118. Expenditure for the Agricultural Department was Rs. 66,650. Further expenditure to the extent of Rs. 21,977 was incurred on the construction of the Agricultural Laboratory, and the Experimental Farm buildings at Adhartal near Jubbulpore were completed at a cost of Rs. 24,088. The demands of the Educational Department amounted to Rs. 2,83,485. The conversion of the old Residency building at Nagpur into the Morris College was completed, as were also the Normal School with Hostel and Practising School at a total cost of Rs. 71,211 and the School of Handicrafts with Hostel, both at Nagpur, at a total cost of Rs. 39,258. An expenditure of Rs. 43,456 was incurred—chiefly on the acquisition of land—for the construction of the Patwardhan High School of Nagpur. The construction of the Engineering School, Workshop and Hostel at Nagpur was still in progress. The Craddock High School and Hostel at Wardha were completed at a total cost of Rs. 69,611. A site was selected for the new Arts College at Jubbulpore, and materials to the value of Rs. 20,000 were collected during the year. The provision of Science Laboratories for Government and Aided Schools was taken up at Hoshangabad, Chhindwara, Khandwa and Raipur, and excellent progress was made, a total sum of Rs. 30,000 being expended.

119. The expenditure under Law and Justice was Rs. 2,68,414. The Civil Court-house at Balaghat and the Munsiff's Court at Katol were completed, as was also the Civil Court at Raipur, while in Jubbulpore the work on the Civil Court was delayed by the fact that a good deal of the ornamental stone had to be

imported from outside the Province. Extensive alterations and additions to the District Court at Hoshangabad were made at a cost of Rs. 40,000. The total expenditure on Jails was Rs. 39,145. The work of laying a 4-inch branch main pipe to the Central Jail at Nagpur was completed at a cost of Rs. 18,591, and improvements costing Rs. 14,330 were carried out at the Narsinghpur District Jail. The expenditure on Police buildings was Rs. 3,19,525. New Station-houses and quarters were completed or in progress during the year at no less than thirty-eight places. The construction of the Kotwali buildings at Khandwa was completed at a total cost of Rs. 22,897, while a sum of Rs. 20,080 was expended on similar buildings at Amraoti. The total expenditure on Hospitals, Dispensaries and Asylums was Rs. 28,147.

Communications.

120. The expenditure on communications was Rs. 26,33,890, the outlay on original works being Rs. 10,50,564. The important lines of road communications under construction during the year were Nagpur-Amraoti, Baihar-Topla, Chanda-Allapalli-Sironcha, Badnur-Ellichpur and Dindori Amarkantak. Of these, the Badnur-Ellichpur and the Dindori-Amarkantak roads were completed during the year. Road construction in the Mandla district is being rapidly pushed on, and tracts which have hitherto been untraversed save by Banjaras are being opened up. Large sums are being spent on causeways and bridges, with the object of keeping all important lines of communication open throughout the year. The international system of motor-car sign boards has now been introduced on all important roads. The expenditure on arboriculture for roads was Rs. 54,644.

Sanitary Works.

121. The Sanitary works with which the Public Works Department is concerned may be divided into (i) Water-works, (ii) Drainage works. Under the former, head work was done at Hinganghat, Khandwa, Burhanpur and Amraoti both in the town and Civil station. Projects were worked out in detail for nine towns and are under consideration at seven others. Under the head "Drainage", satisfactory progress was made with the Nagpur drainage scheme, Rs. 1,25,298 being expended during the year. The work of constructing the sewers has been attended with considerable difficulty owing to the depth of the trenches and the large quantities of sub-soil water which have been found. Work to the value of Rs. 83,907 was carried out in connection with the Wardha surface-drainage scheme. At Khamgaon owing to opposition on the part of some of the residents of the town and members of the Municipal Committee work on the scheme has not yet begun. Sewerage schemes for Jubbulpore and Burhanpur and surface drainage schemes for Harda, Khandwa and Itarsi were prepared during the year. Schemes for six other towns are under preparation.

Miscellaneous.

122. The work of laying a cast-iron pipe main and branches from Telinkheri Tank to the Maharajbagh was completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 47,013. The raising in class of the Deoli-Wardha road was completed at a cost of Rs. 30,329 and in the Narsinghpur district the Gadarwara-Sanikera road was completed at a cost of Rs. 50,427. The Bamhani-Anjania road in the Mandla district was almost completed and various other works for District Councils were undertaken throughout the Province.

9—IRRIGATION

IRRIGATION

[Brief Note on Irrigation work done in the Central Provinces during the year 1912-13 for the Irrigation portion of the Public Works Department Annual Administration Report, and Statistics of British India, Part III, Commercial Services.]

Area under irrigation.

123. The area irrigated in the Central Provinces during the year under report was 49,174 acres as against 28,317 acres in the previous year. The failure of the rains in the early part of September and the very light rainfall in October raised the demand for water everywhere in the Western Circle and there are signs that the stimulus thus given to irrigation will be maintained. This advance is most encouraging, but the area actually irrigated is still far below the maximum area which it is possible to irrigate. Cultivators have not yet realised the full value to be obtained from taking water immediately it is required, and there are at present many who take water to save partially damaged crops rather than in time to prevent damage This reluctance to take water immediately it is required is, it is satisfactory to note, gradually being overcome.

Major Works.

124. The final preparation of the Mahakari project in the Balaghat district has almost been completed, and with its completion the programme of investigation of Major Works in the Western Circle sanctioned by the Government of India will be ready. In the Eastern Circle the Kumbhari and Ghulghul Projects have now been brought on to the programme of Major Works. The Government of India have sanctioned the investigation of sixteen projects as Protective Irrigation Works, and satisfactory progress has been made with the preparation of the schemes.

125. The site of the Mahanadi Canal was visited by the Inspector-General of Irrigation during the year and it was found necessary to revise the design of the head works entirely. The work was pushed on vigorously and excellent progress has been made. On the main canal nearly 300 lakhs of earth work were excavated. The progress on the earthen embankment which forms the head works of the Tendula Canal, was slow, owing to the want of sufficient tramway plant and the short supply of labour. Fairly good progress was, however, made with the main canal and distributaries. The work on the Wainganga Canal has been retarded by labour difficulties, and the progress has been disappointing. At the Ramtek Reservoir work is complete, except for the Inspection Bungalow. At other works progress has been on the whole satisfactory, except on the Kattangjhari and Naleshwar Tanks where there has been much difficulty about labour. The tanks at Chandpur, Khairbanda, Khairee and Barera Kalan have now been completed.

Expenditure.

126. The grants and expenditure under the various fund heads were as below:—

Head of Account.	Grant.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
35—Construction of Protective Irrigation Works	17,20,340	17,87,888
42—Major Works	80,000	76,594
49—Productive Irrigation Works	9,84,500	10,40,538
43—Minor Works and Navigation	4,18,678	4,66,050
45—Civil Works	18,400	21,294
Deposits Contribution	11,043	7,693
Total ...	32,32,961	34,00,057

Revenue.

127. The total revenue demand for Major and Minor Works taken together was Rs. 1,53,701, of which Rs. 1,31,750 was collected during the year. In the Bhandara and Balaghat districts, except in the Baihar Tahsil, the rates for kharif and rabi irrigation were increased from Rs. 2 and Rs. 1-4-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 and Rs. 1-8-0. The rate for garden crops was raised from Rs. 5 per acre to Rs. 6 in the Nagpur, Bhandara and Balaghat districts. In Damoh the rate for sugarcane was raised from Rs. 5 to Rs. 7 per acre. The agreement system was introduced in the Jubbulpore, Damoh and Seoni districts at reduced rates in order to encourage irrigation. The rates for kharif irrigation in the Raipur and Drug districts remained the same as in the previous year, and it has been decided that they are not to be raised for ten years.

General.

128. The progress of colonization of the areas commanded by tanks in the Chanda and Balaghat districts has not been as rapid as could be desired. The great demand for labour and the very high wages paid are partly responsible for this The Demonstration and Experimental Farms established by the Agricultural Department have done much to stimulate irrigation, and more such farms might be started with advantage.

CHAPTER V

REVENUE AND FINANCE

[Further details and Statistics will be found in Part IV (*b*) of the Statistics of British India.]

GROSS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

129. The following statement compares the receipts and expenditure and closing balances under the various heads for the years 1911-12 and 1912-13 :—

	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing balance.	
	1911-12.	1912-13.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1911-12.	1912-13.
Imperial Revenue ...	1,06,41,588	75,77,203	62,39,351	64,50,711	...	...
Provincial Revenue ...	2,70,62,981	3,32,87,189	2,98,35,195	2,74,51,928	39,86,787	98,22,048
Deposits of Local Funds—						
District Funds ...	27,01,833	29,30,762	23,71,555	26,90,915	14,39,664	16,70,511
Jaglia Funds ...	5,26,352	5,25,419	5,24,171	5,20,101	2,95,292	3,00,010
Other Local Funds ...	9,02,091	0,89,140	8,37,627	8,97,796	4,38,658	5,30,011
Municipal Funds ..	22,20,203	26,82,543	22,55,458	25,16,084	7,03,386	8,09,845
Total ...	4,40,55,948	4,79,92,265	4,20,63,557	4,05,36,535	68,63,787	1,31,93,025

REVENUE AND FINANCE—IMPERIAL.

130. The Imperial Revenue for 1912-13 was less than that of 1911-12 by Rs. 30,64,385 and the Imperial Expenditure for the same year was more than that of 1911-12 by Rs. 2,11,360. The heads under which striking differences occur are given in the following table :—

Revenue.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1911-12.	1912-13.		1911-12.	1912-13.
Land Revenue ...	92,93,930	91,48,537	Ecclesiastical ...	75,975	98,420
Adjustment ...	−42,20,845	−76,80,481	Scientific, etc. ...	1,40,790	32,863
Stamps ...	16,80,233	18,57,242	Protective Works ...	16,59,546	17,56,506
Excise ...	22,78,131	26,51,121			
Irrigation Major Works ...	58,508	93,231	Irrigation Major Works ...	3,21,357	4,54,234
Civil Works ...	1,42,315	50,388	Civil Works ...	9,15,344	9,41,727
Other heads ...	14,09,316	14,57,165	Other heads ...	31,26,339	31,66,961
Total ...	1,06,41,588	75,77,203	Total ...	62,39,351	64,50,711

REVENUE.

131. LAND REVENUE.—*Imperial share one-half.*—The decrease was due to suspensions and remissions granted during the year as well as to the estimated demand not having been fully realized.

The increase under adjustment was due to additional assignments from Imperial to Provincial sanctioned by the Government of India. The principal assignments were for Education, Sanitation and Discretionary grants.

Stamps.—The large increase was due to—

(1) the scale of Civil and Criminal Process-fees having been revised and increased with effect from the 1st January 1912, the full effect of which did not appear in 1911-12 ;
(2) increased commercial activity ; and
(3) absence of plague from many tracts which were affected in the year 1911-12.

Excise.—The largest increases were under "License and Distillery-fees" and "Gain on sale-proceeds of Excise opium" and were due to the following causes :—

(1) the agricultural prosperity of the year ;
(2) the increased commercial and industrial activity in the Province ;
(3) the construction of large Irrigation and other Public Works ;
(4) the check which, in the backward tracts, illicit distillation has received owing to the vigorous measures taken during the last two years, and
(5) the disappearance of the prejudice against the distillery liquor in outstill areas converted to the supply system.

These causes have all tended to swell the consumption beyond all anticipations in spite of considerable enhancements in the duty rates.

Irrigation Major Works.—The increase was due to increased revenue owing to the season being favourable for irrigation purposes and to advance in the construction of Works.

Civil Works.—The decrease was in Central India and was due to the fact that the actuals of 1911-12 included a recovery of Rs. 1,10,000 from the Gwalior Darbar on account of the sale-proceeds of buildings at Sirdarpore which were sold to the Maharaja.

EXPENDITURE.

132. *Ecclesiastical.*—The increase is chiefly due to the transfer in 1912-13 of the charges of the Neemuch Chaplaincy from Bombay to the Central Provinces and to the absence on leave of a proportionately large number of senior Chaplains during 1911-12.

Scientific, etc.—The decrease was due to the fact that the actuals of 1911-12 included large expenditure on census operations.

Construction of Protective Works.—The increase was chiefly the result of large outlay on the Tandula Canal, and on "Other Tanks" and "Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept" and was partly counterbalanced by decrease of expenditure on the Ramtek Reservoir and the Ghorajheri and Khairbanda Tanks.

Irrigation Major Works—The increase was in working expenses and interest on debt In the former case it was due to provision having been made for repairs to newly completed works, and in the latter case it was due to the proportionate increase of Capital outlay as also to the rate of interest which was 3·377 for 1911-12 and 3·5 for 1912-13.

Civil Works.—The construction of the combined Post and Telegraph Office building at Nagpur and the restoration of the southern compound wall of the Hyderabad Residency accounts for the net increase.

REVENUE AND FINANCE—PROVINCIAL.

133. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1911-12 and 1912-13. The details of the Major heads under which striking differences have occurred are given below :—

Revenue.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1911-12.	1912-13.		1911-12.	1912-13.
Land Revenue ..	92,93,930	91,48,537	Land Revenue ...	39,07,629	38,38,322
Adjustment ..	+42,20,845	+76,80,481	Excise ..	2,17,464	2,38,147
Stamps ...	15,80,233	18,57,242	Forest ...	18,38,379	19,46,735
Excise .	65,34,392	79,53,364	General Administration ...	10,69,052	8,68,132
Forest ...	25,40,854	31,71,815	Law and Justice—Courts of Law .	25,24,371	25,77,698
Registration ...	3,49,440	3,89,805	Education ...	17,82,548	21,16,637
Interest ...	2,17,160	1,80,289	Medical ...	9,81,058	10,70,637
Law and Justice—Courts of Law	2,06,735	2,35,053	Scientific, etc. ...	5,63,365	7,12,747
			Superannuation ...	7,24,164	7,57,493
Education ...	1,46,171	1,99,888	Miscellaneous ...	1,22,415	1,62,005
Scientific, etc. ...	94,029	1,15,995	Minor Works and Navigation ...	5,35,221	4,64,743
Miscellaneous ...	1,17,049	2,07,101	Civil Works (C. O.) ...	1,91,381	2,26,118
Civil Works (P. W. O.)	5,64,490	1,13,14,599	Do. (P. W. O.) ...	54,44,880	65,40,568
Other heads ...	7,88,644	8,33,020	Other heads ...	59,46,481	59,31,946
Opening balance ..	27,72,214	39,86,787	Closing balance ...	39,86,787	98,22,048
Total ...	2,98,35,195	3,72,73,976	Total ...	2,98,35,195	3,72,73,976

REVENUE.

The variations under heads which are divided in fixed proportions between Imperial and Provincial have been explained under Imperial Revenue and Finance. Those under the remaining heads are noted below :—

Forest.—The standard rate of growth under this head is Rs. 75,000. The further increase was due to the following causes :—

(1) the revision of the grazing fees with effect from the 1st July 1912 ,

(2) the increase in the value of the grass supplied to the famine districts in the Bombay Presidency in the year 1912-13 as compared with the value realised in 1911-12 ; and

(3) the increased receipts from compensation recovered in forest cases and from fines imposed on the lessees of certain coupes.

Registration.—The standard rate of increase is Rs. 15,000. The further increase is attributed mainly to the introduction of the Record-of-Rights in Berar.

Interest.—The decrease was due to the continued liquidation of the loans under the " Land Improvement Act " and " Agriculturists' Loans Act " and was partly counterbalanced by increases under " Loans to Municipal and other Public Corporations "

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—The unusually large receipts under the head " Magisterial fines " account for the increase.

Education.—The increase was due to the provincialization of certain High and Middle Schools and to an increase in the number of students.

Scientific and Other Minor Departments.—The increase was due to two new experimental Farms and a Dairy at Nagpur having been opened and to the year being more favourable for agricultural purposes than the previous one.

Miscellaneous.—The increase was due to (*a*) unclaimed deposits being abnormally high, (*b*) recovery of contribution from Court of Wards due in 1911-12 having actually been recovered in 1912-13, and (*c*) sale of lands to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, for the Gondia-Chanda Extension.

Civil Works (in charge of Public Works Officers.)—The large increase was due to the receipt of $7\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees from the sale of the Ballarpur Colliery to a private firm.

EXPENDITURE.

134. *Land Revenue.*—The expenditure in 1911-12 included Rs. 33,000 on account of the Royal Bonus. Excluding this, the decrease was mainly under the head " Survey and Settlement ", due to the winding up of Settlement operations in five or six districts, and also due (*a*) to savings under " Charges of District Administration ", (*b*) to less expenditure under " Management of Government Estates " and (*c*) to savings under other heads. The decrease was partly counterbalanced by increases under " Land Records " due to the Land Record reforms, which have effect from October 1911, having been in force throughout the year.

Excise.—The increase was mainly the result of the filling up of sanctioned establishments.

Forest.—The increase was due to (1) increments under the time-scale of pay to officers of both the Imperial and Provincial Services, (2) increases in the number of forest guards, (3) travelling allowance granted to Rangers, Deputy Rangers and Foresters, (4) improvements of forest communications and buildings, (5) purchase of an estate in the Northern Circle and (6) additional expenditure incurred on account of operations undertaken for the supply of grass to the Bombay Presidency.

General Administration.—The decrease was due to the fact that the actuals of 1911-12 included charges on account of the Royal Visit and the Royal Bonus.

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—The figures of 1911-12 included Rs. 26,000 on account of the Royal Bonus. Excluding this figure the increase in 1912-13 was mainly due to heavier expenditure under (*a*) Divisional and Sessions Judges and (*b*) diet and travelling expenses of witnesses and to the revision of the Process-serving Establishment.

Education.—The increase was mainly due to increased grants for school buildings and furniture having been paid out of the special grants sanctioned by the Government of India, to the entertainment of additional staff and to the revision of the pay of teachers of Girls' Schools.

Medical.—The excess was mainly due to increased grants to Local Bodies Hospitals and Dispensaries and to the revision of the scale of Assistant Surgeons.

Scientific and other Minor Departments.—The excess was due to (1) increased expenditure under "Agriculture" owing to the opening of a new farm at Adhartal, Dairies at Telinkheri and the Nagpur Farm and to the general expansion of the Agricultural Department, (2) increase in the number of Veterinary Assistants and expenditure on anti-rinderpest serum and purchase of laboratory fittings from England, and (3) the opening of the School of Handicrafts and the Mochi School.

Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.—The increase was due to the continued growth of the pension list and to the lapses being few.

Miscellaneous.—The increase was mainly due to (1) the payment of a building grant to the Young Men's Christian Association at Jubbulpore, (2) payment of compensation for lands taken up for Nazul purposes in the Betul and Chhindwara districts, (3) irrecoverable temporary loans written off, and (4) the refund to the District Fund, Jubbulpore, of the rent of a grass bir formerly credited to Provincial Revenues.

Minor Works and Navigation.—The decrease was due to restricted expenditure on account of transfer of grants to other heads.

Civil Works (in charge of Civil Officers).—Increased grants to Municipalities and increased expenditure on roadside arboriculture chiefly account for the increase.

Civil Works (in charge of Public Works Officers).—The excess was mainly due to original works under Civil Buildings done for the Education, Forest, Agriculture and Jail Departments.

CHAPTER VI

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

1.—DETAILS OF CENSUS

DETAILS OF CENSUS

135. An account of the above subject will be found on pages 37—54 of the Administration Report, 1911-12.

2—BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

[Annual Sanitary Report for the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1912, and Part V of the Statistic of British India.]

System of registration

136. No definite change was made during the year in the system of registering vital statistics. A leaflet containing simple instructions for the correct classification of the cause of death was drawn up in English and Vernacular and issued to all registration officials.

Births.

The number of births registered during the year was 671,298, or 17,134 less than in the year 1911, the ratio being 48·24 per thousand, the lowest recorded during the past nine years. Sixteen districts recorded a decrease, Raipur contributing the largest, *viz.*, 7,057. The decline is mostly ascribed to the prevalence of epidemic diseases. But in spite of this decline several districts maintained their high birth-rate. The Murwara tahsil in the Jubbulpore district recorded the highest, *viz.*, 55·08.

Deaths.

137. The year was on the whole a favourable one, and the rainfall, though scanty in a few districts, was generally seasonable. The condition of the people was one of continued prosperity, and it might have been expected that the general health of the population would have corresponded to these favourable conditions. But the contrary was unhappily the case and the year was one of much unhealthiness and was marred by the ravages of severe epidemics. The total number of deaths was 589,285 as compared with 482,497 in 1911, the ratio per mille being 42·34 as against 34·67. The death-rate among children under five years old continued to be abnormally high, the ratio being 55·46 per mille against 56 in 1911, while the death-rate for infants under one year reached the deplorable figure of 293·60 per mille. Any real improvement in these conditions must come from within and not without. Town extensions and the improvement of congested areas in old towns have already received attention in these Provinces, and amelioration in these directions will continue to receive sustained consideration in future. But the efforts of Government and the Municipal authorities can be of little avail in the absence of even the elements of domestic hygiene. Until education, and in particular female education, has reached a much higher standard no real decrease in the incidence of infant mortality can be expected. It is, however, hoped that the rise in the standard of comfort, the increase of wages and the general advance in material prosperity will gradually minimise the heavy toll exacted from infant life.

Chief diseases

138. The mortality from various diseases showed an increase under almost every head, plague being the only exception. The ravages of cholera, under which head 34,313 deaths were recorded, were particularly severe. The Berar districts and Nimar, where the monsoon of the previous year had given an inadequate water-supply, were the heaviest sufferers from cholera, but the epidemic extended in the later months of the rains to every district in the Provinces. Though in many cases the outbreak was traced to infection carried by pilgrims from Puri, yet the insufficiency of the water-supply must, at any rate in the case of the Berar towns, be held largely responsible. Mortality from plague decreased from 27,938 deaths in 1911 to 19,199 in the year 1912, of which no less than 18,727 occurred during the first six months of the year. At the commencement of the year the epidemic prevailed in 18 districts, but the Province was

declared free by the first week in June, and the recrudescence in August and September was in a very mild form. Fevers and dysentery and diarrhœa claimed more than their usual share of victims.

Special measures

139. The anti-plague measures were as usual confined to inoculation, evacuation and the extermination of rats. The total number of inoculations performed was 38,719 against 60,504 in the previous year. The diminution was largely due to the mildness of the autumn epidemic. An enquiry into the results of anti-plague inoculations has shown that out of 8,807 persons inoculated, 8,545 were found to be alive and that of the balance only 19 persons died of plague, and even out of this small number 7 persons were inoculated in the incubation stage of the disease when they could no longer be fully protected. The Malaria Survey made considerable progress and the experimental work was attended by satisfactory results. The sale of quinine continued, but in some districts the result was disappointing. In Mandla the non-official vendors proved a failure. In other districts the vendors were apathetic and kept the quinine locked away in their boxes, without making any effort to bring it to the notice of the people.

3—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

[Report on the Inland Emigration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th June 1913, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

140. Another year of general prosperity has served to confirm the already established fact that, in spite of increased efforts at recruitment, the present attractions of the tea-gardens cannot under normal conditions compete with those of home employment. The past year has seen the labourer maintain and even improve his position; in every industry, in the field, the factory, the mine, or on railway or irrigation works, it is the labourer who has held the upper hand, it is the employer who has had to compete for his services. It is small wonder therefore that enjoying this position at home the coolie is not tempted in any great degree to risk for the wage that Assam offers the vague uncertainties of life on a distant tea-garden. These facts are reflected in the returns of recruitment, and it is necessary only to quote the total figures—4,560 recruiters against 4,966 labourers recruited—to realise the difficulties against which the emigration agencies have nowadays to contend. And when it is taken into account that half the coolies registered are inhabitants of Native States—in reality the number is much greater,—the insignificance of genuine recruiting from the Central Provinces proper is fully apparent. The total number of recruiters under Chapter III of the Act and of garden sardars under Chapter IV and Section 90 has again risen from 4,120 to 4,560, but the figures of labourers have failed to make a proportionate advance, the increase being from 4,649 to 4,966 or only just over 6 per cent. A feature of the returns is the greater comparative success obtained by contractors and recruiters working under Chapter III than by local agents and garden sardars working under Chapter IV and Section 90. With about two-thirds of the number of recruiters employed in 1911-12, 260 against 369, contractors obtained 1,654 labourers as compared with 1,616. On the other hand 4,300 garden sardars could secure only 3,312 emigrants. Recruiters were licensed almost entirely in the Jubbulpore and Bilaspur districts, the main centres for Native State recruitment, and their chief field of employment, it may be assumed, was in foreign territory, which no doubt accounts for the results they have obtained.

Working of Act VI of 1901.

141. There were nine prosecutions for offences under the Act, during the year, in only 4 of which convictions were obtained. Irregularities in recruitment are hard to detect and are harder to prove, and in many cases licenses have been cancelled for various misdemeanours or for attempts to get round the provisions of the Act. So long as there is a local market for labour with which the gardens of Assam cannot compete, these irregularities are bound to occur. The remedy appears to lie in the improvement of conditions of employment in the gardens. If these can be made such as to attract a voluntary supply, the reason for such irregularities largely disappears.

Financial.

142. Receipts from license and registration fees remained practically stationary, being Rs. 4,586 against Rs. 4,526 in 1911-12. Expenditure increased from Rs. 728 to Rs. 756.

4—MEDICAL RELIEF

[Annual Notes on Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1912, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Number of dispensaries

143. The year opened with 288 dispensaries. Nine were opened during the year and four were closed, while the statistics of 23 dispensaries, maintained by Feudatory States, were, under the orders of the Government of India, excluded from the Provincial Annual Report. There were thus 270 dispensaries at the end of the year. Of these, 31 were maintained by the State, 161 by Local Bodies and 39 by Railways, the rest being either private or State-aided institutions.

Number of patients.

144. The total number of both in-door and out-door patients treated at the various dispensaries in the Province was 1,711,270 or 20,025 less than in 1911. The decrease which occurred in all the Central Provinces districts was due to the prevalence of plague and cholera. On the other hand all the Berar districts showed an increase in the numbers treated.

Private dispensaries.

145. The number of private dispensaries opened at the end of the year was 32, of which 23 were maintained by Missionary bodies and nine by private individuals. The total number of patients treated at these dispensaries was 125,837.

Relative frequency of diseases.

146. The chief diseases for which relief was sought were dysentery, malarial fevers pyrexia of uncertain origin, rheumatic fevers and rheumatism, diseases of the nervous system, diseases of the eye and ear, diseases of the respiratory system, dyspepsia, diarrhœa, diseases of the digestive system, diseases of the organs of locomotion, diseases of the connective tissues, ulcers and other diseases of the skin and injuries.

As compared with the previous year the number treated for malarial fevers was less by 34,449, other diseases of the skin by 20,799, and dyspepsia by 3,767. The decrease under malaria is attributed in some districts to smaller rainfall, but other determining factors are increased facilities for obtaining quinine outside the hospital, the larger doses in which the drug has of late been prescribed and better diagnosis.

Surgical operations.

147. The number of surgical operations rose from 43,699 in 1911 to 45,702 during the year and the number of selected operations rose from 2,625 to 3,150. Among selected operations there were 922 extractions of the lens for cataract and 193 operations for stone in the bladder.

Income.

148. The total receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 9,16,051 or Rs. 90,213 more than in 1911. The Government contribution was more by Rs. 6,913 under the head "salaries" and by Rs. 39,819 under the head "otherwise". The increase of Rs. 19,717 under the head "Municipal contributions" was chiefly due to special grants made for building purposes, while the District Fund contributions show a small increase of Rs. 430. European subscriptions were more by Rs. 73 and the Indian subscriptions by Rs. 16,314.

Expenditure

149. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 5,05,794 against Rs. 5,07,601 in 1911.

5—TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

[Notes on the Annual Statements of the Lunatic Asylums in the Central Provinces for the year 1912, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Numbers and health

150 The total population in the Lunatic Asylum at Nagpur was 360 during the year, showing an increase of 7 over the previous year, but the number of admissions fell from 94 to 74 The largest number (28) belonged to the Nagpur district. The number of criminal lunatics was 94 or an increase of one over the year previous. Discharges numbered 51 as against 52 in 1911, but the number discharged after recovery increased from 39 to 44. Deaths numbered 29 or almost double the figure of the previous year, more than half being due to general debility, dysentery and epilepsy.

Twice during the year the stools of the inmates were examined to discover intestinal worms which were supposed to be responsible for the high mortality which prevailed in previous years. In this respect general improvement appears to

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

have taken place. Though the ova of the ankylostoma and trichocephalus (whip) worms were discovered, no worms of these descriptions were found. 35 cases had the ascarides (round) worms. Among the inmates admitted during the year cases with ankylostoma infection were received from eleven districts, but in no cases were any worms found after treatment. The infection was evidently very slight.

Expenditure. 151. The total amount spent for the upkeep of the Asylum was Rs. 58,544 showing an increase of Rs. 11,471 over the preceding year. Apart from the grant of a bonus of half a month's pay on the occasion of the Durbar, the increase was due principally to the more liberal supply of diet to hospital patients and of warm clothing and the purchase of raw material for manufacture. The cost of feeding the dairy cattle also increased owing to the failure of farm produce and the local purchase of fodder at higher rates. The average cost per lunatic increased from Rs. 133-5-8 to Rs. 162-9-11. The amount realised from paying patients was Rs. 4,984, the increase from Rs. 3,656 in the previous year being due to the admission of four well-to-do patients who pay at a higher rate.

Industries and Improvements. 152. The profits of the manufacturing department increased from Rs. 2,517 to Rs. 3,097. 91·50 per cent of the lunatics are employed on various industries and to encourage them to work monetary rewards are given. The expenditure incurred on structural improvements was Rs. 54,945. Application has been made to the Government of India for the appointment of a wholetime alienist to the charge of the Asylum which is the only institution of the kind in these Provinces. The Director General, Indian Medical Service, inspected the Asylum recently and was satisfied that the institution offered sufficient justification for the appointment of a wholetime specialist.

SANITATION

6—SANITATION

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1912, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Chief Sanitary Works. 153. During the year a considerable amount of work was done in connection with the Gorewara Water-works at Nagpur which were opened in 1911. The old pumping engine was removed from Sitabuldi and re-erected at Gorewara. The old duplicate rising main was removed and relaid in the City as part of the revised distribution system. A length of this pipe has been utilised to connect the gravitation main from Ambajheri with the Jumma Tank in the City. It will thus be possible to fill the tank with clean water instead of with the surface drainage of the town as is now the case. An estimate of Rs. 41,950, of which Rs. 34,950 is provided by Government, has been sanctioned for works to give a supply from the Municipal Water-works to Government House and the new extension of the Nagpur Civil Station on Seminary Hill. Rs. 1,00,000 was paid during the year as an instalment of the grant for the drainage scheme in Nagpur Rs. 1,23,819 was expended on the work during the year. The work of constructing the sewers has been one of considerable difficulty owing to the depth of the trenches and the large quantities of sub-soil water met with. To improve the yield of the well from which the water-supply of Hinganghat is drawn the construction of a dam across the Wana River has been taken in hand. Owing to the growth of population the existing water-supply of Wardha has been found to be insufficient. A project has been prepared for recasting the whole arrangement, and the cost is estimated at Rs. 2½ lakhs. A sum of Rs. 78,000 was paid during the year for the surface drainage scheme of this town as an instalment of the grant-in-aid. The work has made satisfactory progress. An estimate of Rs. 45,832 has been sanctioned for improving the supply of filtered water at Raipur by extending the infiltration gallery at the head-works. A project amounting to Rs. 4,60,000 has been prepared for a water-supply to Arvi Town. Owing to the scanty rainfall in 1911 and the consequent failure of the Moghat reservoir the water-supply to the town of Khandwa for the whole of the year 1912 has been pumped from wells. A grant of Rs. 37,977 was given to cover the cost of special temporary measures taken to meet the water scarcity. Grants of Rs. 28,983 and Rs. 4,656 were given to Amraoti and Buldana, respectively, for a similar purpose. The liability of the Wadali and Kalapani storage tanks at Amraoti to failure in years of deficient rainfall has, of recent years, caused much

anxiety and difficulty. A grant of Rs. 12,752 was given for improving the Wadali Tank which supplies water to the Amraoti Civil Station, but owing to the scarcity of labour and the rates obtaining it was not possible to complete the work of improvements during the year. Work is in progress for supplementing the water-supply of Burhanpur by pumping from the Tapti. A site for a storage reservoir which would give a gravitation supply to the town is being investigated. A surface drainage scheme has been sanctioned for Khamgaon and is estimated to cost Rs. 2,19,000, half of which has been given as a grant-in-aid. For want of a sufficient number of mature schemes for drainage and water-supply the allotment for grants for such works has not been fully spent in the past, but the progress made during the year has not been unsatisfactory. The extreme urgency of the demand for the improvement of the water-supply has led to the temporary postponement of drainage schemes.

Municipal Sanitation.

154. In Municipal towns improvements were effected in various directions, such as better arrangements for sewage removal, construction of meat markets, drains, latrines, widening of roads so as to open up congested areas, etc. These are a few of the details indicating an advance in sanitation. Many towns have introduced new by-laws or improved existing ones regarding building, registration of births and deaths, and cattle stalls for milch animals. In general fair progress has been made in the improvement of urban sanitation. The pay of the Health Officers has been improved during the year and Sanitary Inspectors have been appointed in several towns which hitherto had none. The inspection of school children in Municipal areas, a measure introduced for the first time during the year, is reported to have been attended by good results.

Rural Sanitation.

155. The year has witnessed a marked advance in rural sanitation, particularly in Berar where the Village Sanitation Act has been extended to nineteen villages. In the Central Provinces the Act was applied to two villages. The receipts in villages under the Act amounted to Rs. 85,667 and the expenditure to Rs. 70,404, the increase being due to the additional villages coming under the Act. The main objects of expenditure were wells and tanks, clearing village sites, drains and roads. In the "Town Fund" and other villages managed by Mukaddams the receipts aggregated Rs. 55,216 which was chiefly spent on cleaning village sites, on wells, tanks and other improvements in connection with water-supply.

The Chief Commissioner has recently had, under his consideration, the question of the improvement of the water-supply in rural areas and has sanctioned a special grant of Rs. 60,000 for this purpose. Instructions have been issued to ensure that this grant is spent to the best advantage wherever the need for more wells is most marked

7—VACCINATION

VACCINATION

[Notes on Vaccination in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1912-13, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Mortality from small-pox.

156. Small-pox was again severe during the year, 4,770 deaths having been recorded against 2,707 in the previous year. Nagpur again reported the highest figure. Frequent evacuation on account of plague and the consequent disorganisation of vaccination probably account to a great extent for the epidemics.

General record of Vaccination.

157. The total number of vaccination operations performed during the year in British Territory was 574,510 or a decrease of 8,691. The decrease was chiefly under primary vaccinations and has been ascribed to the prevalence of cholera and the consequent deputation of the staff on cholera duty in several districts. The presence of plague in some places and the fact, that, during epidemics of small-pox, there is a fear in some villages of offending the goddess, may also account for the large decrease in primary vaccinations. Revaccination has made no headway, 235 fewer operations were performed during the year than in 1911-12. There were many complaints about the inadequacy of the staff both in numbers and intelligence. Several improvements were effected during the year, among which was the grant of local allowances to the staff in certain districts where there was much dissatisfaction. The Vaccination Act was more vigorously enforced. The real difficulty to be tackled appears to be the improve-

VACCINATION.

ment of the staff, as in many districts men are hardly to be obtained at all, and generally the class of man is much below what is required. Better salaries will have to be offered if a better stamp of man is to be obtained both for work and supervision.

Vaccination in Municipalities.

158. The number of infants born during the year in Municipal towns was 38,064, among whom there were 12,299 deaths, while the number of operations on children under one year of age was 26,864, *i. e.*, more than the number of children calculated to be available for vaccination. This is accounted for by wrong classification of age, the presence of immigrants from villages and the fact that some children are vaccinated more than once. Nevertheless many children are reported to be unprotected, but the co-operation of school-masters and the stricter application of the Vaccination Act have produced enormous improvement.

Lymph

159. Hitherto glycerinated lymph has been used prepared at the head-quarters of each district, but during the year the establishment of a Central Lymph Depôt at Nagpur was sanctioned and has been started on tentative lines at the Lunatic Asylum. Lymph will be supplied to the whole Province from this depôt.

Expenditure

160. The total expenditure during the year on Vaccination was Rs. 69,384 being an increase of Rs. 3,291 over that of the previous year. Of the total 83·02 per cent was met by Local Funds and 9·36 by Municipalities. The remainder was borne by Provincial Funds. The only head which showed a decrease was "Travelling allowance". The greatest increase occurred under "Contingencies" evidently due to the supply in some districts of instrument cases to the staff. The cost of each successful operation worked out to Re. 0-2-1, showing a slight increase over the previous year.

CHAPTER VII

INSTRUCTION

1—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

161. An account of this subject will be found on pages 97 and 98, sections 296—304, of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1911-12.

2—EDUCATION

EDUCATION

[Report on the state and progress of education in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1911-12 and Part VII of the Statistics of British India.]

General.

162. The figures for the year show an increase of 257 schools and 20,695 scholars. The application of the Durbar grant to the extension of Vernacular education is chiefly responsible for the advance, accounting for the opening of 209 schools with about 18,000 pupils. The total number of educational institutions is 4,225, and the percentage of total number of scholars to total population of school-going age has risen from 13·85 to 14·85. The number of students undergoing Collegiate education rose by 164, and within another year the number of students seeking admission to Colleges will be far greater than the accommodation available. The number of High Schools for boys rose during the year from 28 to 32, and the number of pupils from 2,949 to 3,383. The number of institutions for Indian girls increased from 319 to 329, and the number of pupils from 17,079 to 17,653.

Variations by caste, &c.

163. A comparison of castes and creeds of pupils undergoing instruction shows that the decrease among Native Christians has ceased and the numbers have risen from 3,717 to 3,892. The number of Europeans and Eurasians also shows an increase from 1,399 to 1,523. The increase of Buddhists, which was commented on in last year's report, appears to have been due to some special temporary cause, for the figures during the year under report are 1,920 as compared with 2,614. Gonds and other aborigines show a slight decrease. It is satisfactory to note that the number of low caste pupils again shows an increase. The same is the case with Muhammadans. The Brahman maintains his ascendency, which is most marked in the Colleges and High Schools, the number of Brahmans attending Colleges and High Schools being, respectively, 504 and 1,776, while the total number of all other castes is 201 and 1,769.

Expenditure

164. The total expenditure again rose from 32½ lakhs to 37¾. The increase was general from all sources, but particularly great from Imperial Funds. Colleges again show the largest proportionate increase, but the increase of expenditure on Primary Schools is absolutely greatest. The rise in the expenditure on buildings is over 2½ lakhs. Direction and inspection cost 7·18 per cent of the total as compared with 8 per cent in the previous year.

Recent changes.

165. In the Hislop College the staff is being added to, and a Provident Fund for Professors has been sanctioned. The College of Science was affiliated up to the D. Sc. degree, and has taken over the teaching of Science from the Morris College, and in certain subjects from the Hislop College. This is the first step towards concentrating Science teaching in one thoroughly equipped and staffed institution. A Professor of Physics, who is a member of the Indian Educational Service, joined the staff during the year. A new Hostel for the Morris College was opened. The construction of the new buildings for the Jubbulpore College was begun and steps were taken towards beginning those of the new College of Science, but pending decision as to the future of the Colleges in the new University Scheme, work has been stopped. The reports of all Colleges speak of the advance made in college life, and the resultant educative influence exerted on the students. The Jubbulpore and Morris Colleges issued the first numbers of their College Magazines during the year.

In regard to secondary education, the policy of Government is to provide a High School at the head-quarters of each district, not with the intention of meeting the entire demand for secondary education, but to serve as a model for further schools of which the increasing demand for such education should secure the supply, either through the agency of Local Bodies or of the general public. In a head-quarters town where a Government High School is already in existence and that school cannot admit all the boys seeking admission, the Municipality should start a Middle School, to relieve the pressure which usually falls on the Middle School, and not on the High School classes, of the Government School. Should the demand for admission to the High School classes thereafter increase beyond the capacity of the Government School, the latter should restrict its Middle classes, and increase its High classes, while the Municipal School should correspondingly increase its Middle classes. The final stage would be that all Middle teaching would be given in the aided Municipal School and all High teaching in the Government School.

In primary education the prominent feature of the year has been the expansion of primary education rendered possible by the Durbar grant, which enabled 209 new schools to be opened. The low pay and unsatisfactory prospects of teachers in Primary Schools have for some time demanded attention, and the Durbar grant has permitted a marked improvement in making the service popular. A scheme is now under consideration for rendering the service of all masters drawing Rs. 11 per mensem and over pensionable. Large grants were made to Municipalities and District Councils to assist them in overtaking the arrears of primary school building into which they have fallen. One point has been once more clearly demonstrated, and that is that, unless trained teachers can be produced at a very much faster rate than is the case at present, the expansion of Vernacular education will be accompanied by its deterioration to a great extent.

Management.

166. The relations of the Department with District officers and Local Bodies continue to be satisfactory. The post of Assistant Director of Public Instruction and Inspector of European Schools was created during the year.

Primary education—Boys.

167. Expenditure on Primary Schools has risen from Rs. 11,76,813 to Rs. 12,60,060, while the number of pupils has risen from 311,498 to 333,181. The expenditure of District Councils on primary education has now reached a point at which a halt must be called, and the Councils will have to mark time until increased resources enable them to make a further advance.

Secondary education—Boys.

168. The number of Secondary Schools shows a decrease from 441 to 430—the result of the elimination of feeble and inefficient institutions. The number of High Schools increased by four and of Anglo-Vernacular Schools by two. The total number of pupils showed a slight fall.

Collegiate education.

169. The expenditure on Collegiate education showed a rise from Rs. 1,58,775 to Rs. 1,97,657. The average annual cost of educating each pupil in the Arts Colleges remained practically the same, but that in the Professional Colleges was nearly doubled, and now stands at Rs. 604-8-4. The number of students undergoing Collegiate education rose by 164.

Training Schools.

170. The Training College at Jubbulpore continues to do excellent work, and the demand for enrolment is already exceeding the accommodation. A new Normal School has been constructed at Nagpur, additions to the Marathi Normal School at Amraoti were made, and the construction of an Urdu Normal School at the same place was undertaken. From the Durbar grant a recurring sum has been allotted for the retraining of teachers. The course will be of one year's duration, and both trained and untrained teachers in the service will be put through this in order to refresh their knowledge and correct and enlarge their methods of teaching. There will be three of these classes to begin with, at Nagpur, Jubbulpore and Amraoti. Building has already begun at Nagpur and Amraoti, while at Jubbulpore accommodation is available.

Female education

171. The number of institutions for Indian girls in British Territory increased from 319 to 329, and the number of pupils from 17,079 to 17,653. In secondary education the important events of the year were the establishment of the Government Girls' High School at Amraoti and the raising of two aided Middle Schools to the High School standard. This must be regarded as a satisfactory beginning in the higher education of women, in which rapid progress is not to be expected. The plan of offering rewards in villages where no girls' school exists to the masters of boys' schools who secure a fair attendance of girls in the boys' school has worked well. The Durbar grant has enabled mechanism to be provided for the more efficient and thorough control and administration of female education, and a second Inspectress of Schools and two additional Assistant Inspectresses have been appointed

Schools for Europeans.

172. The number of pupils under instruction increased by 168, and now stands at 1,523, the total increase for the previous ten years being only 89 The quality of the staff is improving in the schools, and eleven trained teachers were added during the year. Rs. 15,000 were spent in the equipment of Schools, and Rs. 20,000 were given as a building grant to the Christ Church School at Jubbulpore.

Muhammadan education

173. The total number of Muhammadan pupils in all classes of schools rose during the year from 12,916 to 13,838. A rise in the number under Collegiate education and in High Schools is a most promising sign. The number of Muhammadan girls in Primary Schools shows an increase of nearly 700. Building was begun for the Government Muhammadan High School at Amraoti during the year.

3—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Publications.

174. During 1912-13 the number of publications amounted to 111 as against 162 of 1911-12 and 144 of 1910-11. This decrease was due to the greater care exercised in registering publications sent in by printers, and thus conforming to the statutory orders framed by the Government of India under Act XXV of 1867. Of the books registered 7 were in English, 34 in Hindi, 35 in Marathi, 1 in Urdu, 20 in Urdu written in Nagri characters, 1 in Sanskrit, 2 in Arabic written in Nagri characters, 3 in English-Marathi, 1 in English-Sanskrit, 2 in Sanskrit-Hindi, 1 in Sanskrit-Marathi, 3 in Hindi-Marathi and 1 in Hindi-Gujrati. There were 48 religious books, 8 poetical, 5 geographical, 1 scientific, 2 historical, 3 dramatic, 7 under languages and the rest dealt with miscellaneous subjects. Fifteen books were of an educational character.

Vernacular Press.

175. The number of newspapers and periodicals published in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year was 28 as against 31 of the last year. During the year four papers dropped out of existence and one new paper was started. The papers possessing an appreciable influence on public opinion were the *Marwari* (Nagpur), with a circulation of 1,600 per week, the *Kartavya* (Amraoti) 900, the *Berar Samachar* (Akola) 250, and the new Marathi weekly *Bharat* (Wardha) with a circulation of 250. The *Hitakarini* (Jubbulpore), which has a circulation of 2,000 copies per month, has continued to provide healthy and loyal literature to the Hindi speaking public in general and the student class in particular.

4—LITERARY SOCIETIES

LITERARY SOCIETIES

176. The number of Literary and Scientific Societies decreased from 69 to 55. Almost all were subscription libraries, and depended chiefly for their support on subscriptions from members. Five societies received grants from Government, eleven from Municipalities and one from a District Council.

5—ARTS AND SCIENCES

Arts and Sciences.

177. During the past two years the Nagpur Museum received very careful and systematic attention, and has aroused largely increased popular interest. The average daily number of visitors is now 415 representing an increase of nearly 150 per day within the past two years. This remarkable increase is attributed to the great improvement in the Natural History Section, where the exhibits are well set up and preserved and carefully labelled and described. An instructive feature is a case displaying birds beneficial and injurious to agriculture, together with specimens of the food eaten by each variety. Lack of accommodation prevents exhibition of the large mammals. In the Archæological Section the only additions were two inscribed stones from Damoh. A descriptive catalogue of the archæological exhibits, with an introductory instructional note is now in the press, and a list is now being printed of inscriptions in the Central Provinces. The Raipur Museum fully maintained its popularity. The chief addition to its exhibits during the year was a set of clay models from Poona. The Weaving School attached to the Museum, though carefully fostered by the Committee, shows little sign of vitality; but with the advent of a textile expert to advise and assist it is hoped that matters will mend.

CHAPTER VIII

ARCHÆOLOGY

[For further information, see Archæological Survey of India (New Series), Vol. XIX.]

ARCHÆOLOGY

178. The expenditure on monuments and antiquities was Rs. 8,781. The improvements to the Markhanda and Dasavatar Temples at Markhandi were completed at a total cost of Rs. 1,228. An expenditure of Rs. 2,009 was incurred in repairing certain buildings in the Gavilgarh Fort at Chikalda. Various sums were spent on the preservation of and improvements to the Raja's Chhattri near Bordaghat at Burhanpur, the tombs of Shah Nawaz Khan and Adil Shah at Burhanpur, the Mahadeo Temple at Pälli in Bilaspur, the Temple of Siva at Deo Balode in Drug, the Kankali and Durga Temples at Tegowa in Jubbulpore, the Nohta Temple in Damoh, and the Chausath Jogini and Vishnu Varaha Temples at Bheraghat and Majholi in Jubbulpore. A sum of Rs. 575 was expended in rebuilding the Fort wall at Chanda.

CHAPTER IX

MISCELLANEOUS

1—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

Ecclesiastical.

179. The diocese of Nagpur was formed in 1903 and includes the whole of the Central Provinces, Berar, Central India, Ajmere-Merwara and all stations in Rajputana, except Mount Abu. There were no changes during the year.

2—STATIONERY

STATIONERY

180. The total value of the stationery supplied to Offices and Courts from the Central Depôt, including cost of carriage as well as stationery purchased locally, has decreased from Rs. 96,612 in 1911-12 to Rs. 85,607 in 1912-13. This satisfactory result is again due to the orders issued on the subject of the curtailment of expenditure on stationery and the introduction of the system of stationery allotments. The charges on account of conveyance of forms also decreased from Rs. 7,224 in 1911-12 to Rs. 5,618 in 1912-13.

There was a slight increase in the value of stationery supplied to printing presses, including the cost of carriage, which is due to the fact that a portion of the annual indent for paper for the year 1911-12 was actually complied with in the year 1912-13. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 96,288 against Rs. 93,724 in 1911-12.

3—GENERAL—MISCELLANEOUS

GENERAL

Registration of rainfall.

181. There were in all 175 raingauges in these Provinces, of which 14 were observatories under the control of the Imperial Meteorological Department, 20 were maintained by the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, 16 were in the Feudatory States, while the remainder (125) were under the control of the Director of Land Records. During the year one new raingauge was established at Patan in the Jubbulpore district and another at Baikunthpur in the Korea State. The raingauge at Allapilli in the Chanda district was removed to Ahiri in the same district, while the gauges at Khurai in the Saugor District, at Murtizapur, Daryapur, Mehkar and Umerkhed in the Akola, Amraoti, Buldana and Yeotmal districts were removed to more suitable sites. All except six of the raingauges were inspected during the year and all defects brought to light were remedied.

Govt. Press, Nagpur :—No. 1773, Civil Sectt.—24-3-14—425.

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR

FOR THE YEAR

1913-14

Agents for the Sale of Books published by the Central Provinces Administration

IN ENGLAND.

CONSTABLE & CO., 10, Orange Street, Leicester Square, London, W. C.
P. S. KING & SON, 9, Bridge Street, Westminster, London, S. W.
KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRUBNER & CO., 68/74, Carter Lane, London, E. C., and 25, Museum Street, London, W. C.
B. QUARITCH, 11, Grafton Street, New Bond Street, London, W.
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B. H. BLACKWELL, 50 & 51, Broad Street, Oxford.
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LUZAC & CO., 46, Great Russell Street, London.
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OLIVER & BOYD, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh.
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T. FISHER UNWIN, Esq., 1, Adelphi Terrace, London, W. C.

ON THE CONTINENT.

ERNEST LEROUX, 28, Rue Bonaparte, Paris.
MARTINUS NIJHOFF, The Hague.

IN INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

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CALCUTTA SCHOOL BOOK & USEFUL LITERATURE SOCIETY, Calcutta.
THE WELDON LIBRARY, 18/5, Chowringhee Road, Calcutta.
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SUPERINTENDENT, AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION PRESS, Rangoon.
MANAGER, GENERAL BOOK DEPÔT, Nagpur and Jubbulpore.
BABU S. C. TALUQDAR, Proprietor, Students & Co., Cooch Behar.
A. M. & J. FERGUSON, Booksellers, Ceylon.

Reg No. 2789 E., 10.—400.+ 410.

Reg. No. 1663 E., 14.—400.

Litho., S. I. O., Calcutta

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1913-14

PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY

Introduction.

The reports on which this review of the administration of the Central Provinces and Berar is based relate to the several different periods specified at the head of each section in Part II, and the various periods of 12 months to which the different sections of this report refer cover in all a period of 23 months, beginning on the 1st August 1912 and ending on the 30th June 1914.

General.

2. The monsoon of 1912 set in late and was not well established until the second week in July, but thereafter conditions were generally favourable, except for a break in September which slightly affected the kharif crops. The outturn of all crops over the whole Province was estimated at 97 per cent of the normal, and the prosperity of the agricultural classes was well maintained. The monsoon of 1913 broke rather late, but at the end of August the agricultural situation was satisfactory. In September and October, however, the rainfall was scanty and ill distributed, and the prolonged break damaged the autumn crops and restricted the area of rabi sowings. The winter rains were generally good, but heavy and unseasonable falls at harvest time in the Jubbulpore Division did serious damage to such of the spring crops as were exposed on the threshing floors. The outturn of neither the kharif nor the rabi harvest for the Province as a whole exceeded 75 per cent of the normal, and there was a substantial rise in the price of all food-grains. In spite of the unfavourable character of the season, however, the condition of all classes of people in most parts of the Province was satisfactory: wages ruled high and ample employment was available. In only three districts was it found necessary to take measures to relieve distress. In point of view of general health the year was an exceptionally happy one: the birth-rate rose, the death-rate exhibited a substantial fall, plague was singularly quiescent, cholera was not so severe as in the previous year and there was a marked decrease in the mortality from non-epidemic causes. The relations between the people and Government continued to be excellent: political crime was conspicuous by its absence, instances of co-operation and good will in public objects were numerous and there were many indications of a genuine appreciation on the part of the people of the efforts made by Government to better their condition.

Administration.

3. The Hon'ble Sir Benjamin Robertson, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., I.C.S., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner from the beginning of the year until the 31st December 1913, when he proceeded to South Africa on deputation in connection with the enquiry into the grievances of Indians resident

within the Union. From the 1st January 1914 until the 31st March 1914 the office was held by the Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Crump, C.S.I., I.C.S.

Feudatory States.

4. There were no changes in the Administration during the year, but the succession of Mahant Lal Sarveshwar Das to the *gaddi* of the Nandgaon State was recognised by the Government of India and announced by the Chief Commissioner. The outturn of crops was below the normal owing to the abrupt cessation of the rains at the end of August, but the year was peaceful and the condition of the people remained good, in spite of a general rise in the price of food-grains. The land revenue was easily recovered in full in most of the States; only in Kawardha State did the crop failure necessitate suspensions and remissions on a small scale. Trade was normal, employment was ample, wages remained almost stationary and there was no heavy mortality from epidemic disease except in Kawardha, where an outbreak of cholera claimed 500 victims. In most of the States there was an increase in the number of criminal offences reported, but they were almost all of a petty nature. The new wajib-ul-arz was brought into force in the Kawardha State and settlement operations were in progress in Bastar and Khairagarh, while several boundary disputes were finally settled. The financial condition of all the States was satisfactory.

Condition of the People.

5. The agricultural season of 1913-14 was not a successful one for cultivators: the important cotton crop was better than was originally anticipated, but the outturn of all crops for the Province as a whole did not exceed 75 per cent of the normal. The deficiency of the rainfall was most marked in Chhattisgarh, where the rice crop was a poor one, and in the north of the Province. In the districts of Damoh, Jubbulpore and Mandla the crop failure caused some distress, but this was successfully met by prompt measures of relief, and no lasting deterioration is expected to result from the scarcity. Elsewhere the effects of the unfavourable agricultural conditions were not so pronounced: there was a rise in the price of all food-grains, the increase amounting to 16 per cent in the case of wheat and 28 per cent in the case of gram, but ample employment was available at high rates of wages, and the condition of cultivators and labourers in the Province as a whole was satisfactory. The year was an exceptionally healthy one: the ravages of cholera were not very severe and plague was almost absent, while the rate of mortality from all causes fell from 42·34 to the low figure of 30·28 per mille and the birth-rate rose from 48·24 to 49·26.

Realisation of Revenue.

6. The total current demand on account of land revenue proper in the agricultural year 1912-13 amounted to over 1,87 lakhs of rupees, the increase of one lakh of rupees over the figure for the previous year being due to Settlement changes. There was also due for collection a sum of over two lakhs of rupees suspended in the previous year. The year had been a prosperous one for agriculturists and collections of revenue were remarkably good: excluding suspensions which amounted to three-quarters of a lakh, the demand for the current year and the arrears of the previous year were recovered practically in full with very little resort to coercive processes. Recoveries of advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and Land Improvements Act were almost equally good: under the former Act 94 per cent and under the latter Act 96 per cent of the demand was collected.

Survey and Settlement.

7. The local Traverse Survey Party, the strength of which was increased by the addition of two traversers, completed 2,038 linear miles of survey in 308

villages, in addition to sub-traverse in 130 villages and special work in connection with boundary disputes in the Chhattisgarh States Division. The orders of the Government of India were received on the final reports on the settlement of two districts and of the Bilaspur Zamindaris, and forecast reports on the re-settlement of two districts were submitted. Settlement operations were in progress in three districts and correction of maps and records preparatory to settlement in three others.

Land Records.

8. The revision of the patwari halkabandi in three districts involved a net addition of three Revenue Inspectors and 13 patwaris. Although the practice of fining patwaris was abolished, the number of punishments remained high, and there was a good deal of unpunctuality in the filing of the annual papers. The prospects of the superior Land Record staff were improved, and the amalgamation of this staff with the cadre of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars was under consideration.

Wards' Estates.

9. At the beginning of the year there were 75 estates under management of the Court of Wards: six estates were relinquished after material improvement had been effected and five estates were newly brought under management. The 69 estates which remained under management throughout the year covered an area of six and a quarter million acres and yielded a gross income of over 21 lakhs of rupees. Rental collections were good, and the total outstandings, suspended and unsuspended, were reduced from Rs. 61,242 to Rs. 36,088. Progress was made, with the co-operation of Forest Officers, in the preparation of simple working-plans for the exploitation of forests, and in almost every estate in which this source of income was of importance there was an increase in forest receipts. The gross expenditure was 11½ lakhs of rupees and the incidence of cost of management on gross income remained at the previous year's figure of 14 per cent. Out of current income the sum of Rs. 1,95,060 was devoted to the repayment of debts, and at the close of the year the total liabilities of indebted estates showed a decrease of one and three-quarter lakhs of rupees. In estates on which home-farm cultivation was more or less successful the net profit per acre ranged from 1 pie to Rs. 8-12-0. The education of minor wards and their relatives received due attention and, where possible, practical training was given to wards or their heirs by associating them in the management of their respective estates as Assistant Managers, kamdars and Forest muharrirs.

Police.

10. The number of offences reported to the police was 32,236 as compared with 27,654 in the previous year, the increase of 3,478 under the head of minor offences against property being most noteworthy: the increase was partly due to the unfavourable economic conditions which prevailed during the latter part of 1913 and to the influx of large numbers of foreigners on to railway construction works, but it was largely attributed to continued improvement in the reporting and registration of crime and to the new rule under which the Railway Police for the first time registered reports of missing goods as thefts. Instances came to light of concealment of crime by village officers, but the improvement in reporting and registration was only one of the indications that the understanding between the police and the public was becoming closer and more helpful. The police had a successful year, and the statistics indicated a slight improvement on the previous year's figures as regards both investigation and prosecution of

cases and recovery of stolen property. There was an improvement in recruiting during the year, and the provisional sanction of the Government of India was obtained to the grant of local allowances to constables stationed in expensive districts. Effect was also given to the recently sanctioned revision of the scale of pay of Head Constables. The experiment of placing recruits under a three years' agreement resulted in a substantial reduction in the number of voluntary resignations. Progress was made in the scheme for the reallocation of Station-houses, and at the close of the year there were only four districts in which reallocation had not been completed.

Criminal Justice.

11. The total number of offences reported increased by 4,500 and the number of cases returned as true by 2,300. Nearly every species of crime contributed to this large increase, which was distributed over almost the whole of the Province. The number of complaints dealt with under Section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code exhibited a rise in proportion to the increase in the total number of cases. The percentage of cases disposed of by Stipendiary Magistrates was a shade over 71, the remainder being dealt with by Honorary and Special Magistrates. The strength of the Magistracy rose by two only, while the number of cases actually disposed of increased by nearly 2,500 : as a natural result, the average duration of trials in all Courts rose from 17·7 to 18·9 days. The larger number of disposals by Courts of Original Jurisdiction involved a greater volume of appellate work : the number of appeals for decision in all Courts rose from 4,993 to 6,127, while there was a distinct increase in the proportion of cases in which the sentence of the Lower Court was upheld. The percentages of convicted persons sentenced to whipping, fine and imprisonment were 3·2, 73·2 and 23·6.

Prisons.

12. The number of prisoners admitted to Jail rose from 8,688 to 10,203. In spite of the large increase in the Jail population, the number of prison offences showed a substantial fall, and Jail Superintendents were generally successful in maintaining a good state of discipline without having undue recourse to punishments. The health of prisoners showed a continued improvement : the daily average of sick and the ratio of deaths per mille of the average daily strength were the lowest recorded within the last nine years. The introduction of a higher scale of pay for the prison staff and a rise in the price of food-grains were largely responsible for the rise in the total cost of maintenance per head of the Jail population from Rs. 105-11-6 to Rs. 109-12-10 : on the other hand, prison industries had a very successful year, and as a result of an increase of Rs. 38,500 in the cash profits from this source the net cost to Government per head fell from Rs. 95-3-0 Rs. 89-15-0.

Civil Justice.

13. Increase of work in the Judicial Commissioner's Court necessitated the temporary appointment of a fourth Judge. The number of suits instituted rose from 100,080 to 100,200 and their value from 181 lakhs to 246 lakhs of rupees. The institution of a single suit valued at 40 lakhs of rupees largely accounted for the marked increase, but, apart from this suit, the average value continued to rise as a result of growing prosperity. There was a further reduction in the number of pending suits in almost every Court : in the Judicial Commissioner's Court, however, in spite of an increase in disposals, the number of pending files rose from 1,025 to 1,102. There was a general fall in the duration of original suits and a rise in the duration of appeals.

Registration.

14. The total number of registrations exceeded by more than 3,000 the previous year's record figure of 89,552, and the value of the property affected rose by 6 per cent to 513 lakhs of rupees. The percentage of sales of villages in favour of agriculturists rose from 70 to 74, while the proportion of mortgages in favour of non-agriculturists fell from 62 to 60. Similarly, the figures relating to transfers of land by plot-proprietors and tenants showed an increasing proportion in favour of agriculturists.

Municipal Administration.

15. The number of Municipalities remained unaltered, while the only important change in constitution was the creation in the Jubbulpore Municipality of two special constituencies returning three members. The total income, excluding debt and extraordinary receipts, fell from Rs. 32,26,353 to Rs. 31,62,928: if Government contributions be left out of consideration, however, the real income from Municipal sources increased by 8 per cent. Octroi receipts showed a slight falling off, but other taxes yielded an increase of Rs. 86,000. Government contributions amounting to more than $2\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs of rupees included grants of $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs for sanitary purposes. The actual expenditure rose from Rs. 30,50,762 to Rs. 31,38,807. Conservancy and sanitation accounted for an increase of nearly three-quarters of a lakh, while the decrease in expenditure on education was due to a fall in the amount of the Government contribution for this purpose. The total closing balances amounted to Rs. 13,74,227, an increase of over a lakh of rupees, but the balances in the hands of most Municipalities represented accumulations for expenditure on schemes already formulated. Seventeen Municipalities and one Notified Area were indebted to Government on account of loans to the extent of Rs. 22,62,520: the finances of all were in a satisfactory condition.

District Councils and Local Boards.

16. The only important constitutional change was the creation of a Local Board for the newly formed Patan Tahsil in the Jubbulpore District. Income and expenditure rose by Rs. 4,06,000 and Rs. 3,97,000, respectively. Government contributions for Education and Civil Works exceeded those of the previous year by $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees, while income under the heads "Cattle-pounds" and "Other Contributions for Civil Works" rose by 11 per cent and 39 per cent. There were increases of expenditure under all three of the important heads of "Education," "Medical and Sanitary Works" and "Civil Works." The percentage of total income expended on public instruction was 31 in the Central Provinces and 30 in Berar. At the close of the year the Divisional Local Fund Engineer scheme was in operation throughout the Province, and in most Divisions the system was reported to have secured increased efficiency and expedition in the design and execution of public works. Closing balances were larger in all but five districts, but the surpluses were due to excess of receipts over estimated income and to the fact that in some Divisions the organisation of the engineering staff under the Local Fund Engineer scheme was not in complete working order throughout the year, rather than to lack of enterprise on the part of Local Bodies.

Agriculture.

17. Unavoidable changes in the office of Director, vacancies in the superior Expert staff and a somewhat unfavourable season were the chief reasons which led to the activities of the Department of Agriculture being devoted more to the consolidation of previous successes than to the opening up of fresh lines of progress. Of the two new posts sanctioned on the supervising staff, one was filled up at the beginning of the year and the other towards its close. Work on the research and experimental farms was hampered by the unfavourable character of

the season: still, the cultivation of sugarcane and irrigated cotton at Sindewahi gave decidedly encouraging results and, even where the crops proved a failure, there were valuable lessons to be learned from experiments conducted under adverse conditions. Excellent progress was made in the production and distribution of pure seed, especially of rosea cotton seed in Berar, and a feature of the year was the successful employment by the Agricultural Department of Co-operative Credit Societies and Unions organised on a co-operative basis as media for the distribution of seed, as well as for the sale of improved agricultural implements and for the dissemination of fresh agricultural ideas. The Agricultural College had a successful year and fully maintained its standard of education.

Co-operative Credit.

18. The agricultural and financial conditions of the year 1913-14 were distinctly unfavourable to the Co-operative Credit movement and were such as to put the soundness of the structure to a severe test: the organisation, however, not only emerged from the trial with its credit unshaken, but actually continued to make steady progress. The Provincial Bank had a successful year: its turnover increased from 23 lakhs of rupees to 55 lakhs and its working capital from 6 lakhs to 12 lakhs, while after the close of the year it was able to declare a dividend of 4 per cent. The number of Central Banks rose from 25 to 28 and their working capital from Rs. 14,25,842 to Rs. 25,86,913. The control and management of constituent societies was almost entirely in the hands of non-official Managers and Directors, but the soundness of the lines on which Central Banks generally transacted business was proved by the facts that they met their obligations to the Provincial Bank punctually and in full, that they were able to collect from their constituent societies considerably more than the amount due for recovery and that their reserve funds doubled. The number of Rural Societies increased from 1,360 to 2,083, in spite of the exercise of careful discrimination in the registration of new societies and the weeding out of lifeless societies previously established, while membership increased from 22,997 to 34,242 and working capital from Rs. 13,79,515 to Rs. 25,62,124.

Veterinary Department.

19. Regarded from the point of view of cattle disease and mortality, the year was an unfortunate one. Rinderpest, in particular, was even more virulent and widespread than in the previous year, the mortality rising from 25,339 to 33,369. An accident to the machinery in the Imperial Laboratory at Muktesar resulted in a shortage in the supply of anti-rinderpest serum: the efforts of the Department to localise outbreaks of the disease by preventive inoculation were seriously handicapped, and the number of inoculations fell from 214,304 to 94,690. On the other hand, the rate of mortality among inoculated animals was only ·17 per cent, the proportion of outbreaks left unattended fell from 43 to 27 per cent, in spite of the larger number of reports, and there was an increase in the number of cases treated by Veterinary Assistants both on tour and in dispensaries, while a most satisfactory feature was the increasing extent to which the help of the Department was voluntarily invoked. A second Superintendent was attached to the Province, and progress was made in filling up the improved cadre of the Provincial Veterinary Establishment. With the aid of a liberal grant from Imperial funds, the heavy programme of construction of buildings was in a fair way towards completion at the close of the year.

Weather and Crops.

20. The general average rainfall in the Central Provinces was 43·09 inches as compared with a 46 years' average of 48·46 inches and in Berar 36·66 inches

against a 20 years' average of 31·19. The deficiency in the Central Provinces was most marked in the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions. The generally favourable character of the early monsoon was responsible for an expansion in the area under kharif crops by 211,486 acres, or by 2 per cent. A slight decline in the area under rice was balanced by a slight rise in the area under juar, while the area under cotton increased by 8 per cent in the Central Provinces and by 5 per cent in Berar. The area sown with til rose by 13 per cent in the Central Provinces and fell by 4 per cent in Berar. The early cessation of the monsoon resulted in a shrinkage in the rabi-sown area by 930,986 acres, or by 11 per cent, the Jubbulpore Division accounting for 454,695 acres of this total and the Chhattisgarh Division for 273,974 acres. The area under wheat and wheat-gram in the Central Provinces fell by 8 per cent from 3,581,977 to 3,287,906 acres, while the decline in the area under linseed amounted to 37 and 35 per cent, respectively, in the Central Provinces and Berar.

Forests.

21. The area under the control of the Forest Department decreased by 888 square miles, the percentage of Reserved Forests on the total area of the Central Provinces and Berar falling from 20·6 to 19·7. Of the total forest area of 19,684 square miles, 10,784 square miles were managed under regularly sanctioned working-plans, while new plans were in preparation for 6,406 square miles. There was an increase in the number of forest offences reported in every Circle and under every head, particularly under the head of unauthorised grazing: the increase was attributed partly to agricultural distress and partly to greater vigilance on the part of the staff. Fire-protection was attempted over 11,409 square miles, and 98 per cent of this area was successfully protected at an average cost of Rs. 9-11-2 per square mile. The area subject to systematic exploitation increased by 26,073 acres. The number of cattle grazed in Government Forest fell by 280,000: the fall was most marked in the Berar Circle and was attributed largely to the disforestment in the preceding year of large areas of C Class forest and good crops of fodder in malguzari areas. Revenue rose by almost 1½ lakhs of rupees to Rs. 32,69,894, the increase in receipts being common to all sources except timber removed by other than Government agency and grazing fees. A large increase in the amount of fuel and minor produce removed from Government Forest was mainly due to concessions made to relieve distress in certain districts of the Northern Circle. An unusual feature was the export of large quantities of fodder to famine-stricken districts of the United Provinces.

Mines and Quarries.

22. The opening of a new coal mine in the Chanda District raised the number of collieries from 4 to 5, but its output was almost negligible. The total Provincial output of coal rose by little more than 2,000 tons to 235,650 tons, but the value increased from Rs. 9,61,066 to Rs. 10,19,941, the general average price falling at Rs. 4-4-0 per ton. A fall in the rates of ocean freights and the opening of new railway lines were among the causes which contributed to a distinct revival of the manganese industry. The number of mines in active work rose from 28 to 40 and the output from 322,713 to 550,595 tons, while the value of the mineral extracted was Rs. 31,88,390, or more than double the value of the previous year's output. The average number of persons employed in mines was 16,200 against 11,553 in 1912, the manganese industry giving employment to 10,330 as compared with 6,196 in the preceding year. Labour was more readily available than in previous years, but the rate of wages remained high.

Manufactures. 23. The new Factory Act was in force in the Central Provinces throughout 1913, but was not introduced in Berar until the close of the year. The total number of factories rose from 479 to 487, of which 3 in the Central Provinces remained closed throughout the year. The total number of operatives employed increased from 47,269 to 48,842, although there was a slight fall in Berar owing to the cotton crop being less heavy than in the preceding year. Wages continued to rule high. Experience of the working of the new Act and rules indicated that they were generally well suited to their purpose of protecting the health, safety and well-being of the operatives without causing unreasonable trouble to employers.

Trade. 24. Omitting animals and treasure, the total rail-borne traffic for the year amounted to $74\frac{3}{4}$ millions of maunds valued at $38\frac{3}{4}$ crores of rupees as compared with $66\frac{3}{4}$ millions of maunds valued at $35\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees in the preceding year. The total value of imports and exports was the highest ever recorded. The bulk of imports was slightly in excess of the previous year's figure and their value rose from $13\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{3}{4}$ crores of rupees. The principal increases in imports were under metals, railway plant and rolling-stock, sugar and salt, while there were decreases in the imports of coal and coke, provisions, wood, oilseeds and manufactured cotton. Exports rose in bulk from 41 to 49 millions of maunds and in value from 22 to 25 crores of rupees. Increases were noticeable under the heads of raw cotton, manufactured cotton, grain and pulse, manganese, oilseeds, wood, chalk and lime, while there was a fall in the exports of hides and skins, hemp and other fibres, railway plant and rolling-stock, coal and provisions.

Public Works. 25. The year was one of exceptional activity in the Public Works Department, and the expenditure, which amounted to more than $76\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, constituted a record. The outlay on Provincial works accounted for nearly $65\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of the total, and of this sum about Rs. 36,50,000 was spent on original works. Nearly every Department of the Administration had a more or less heavy building programme to be overtaken: in particular, the requirements of the Police Department absorbed nearly 5 lakhs and those of the Departments of Land Revenue and Law and Justice nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs each. The expenditure on communications was over $28\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs, including nearly 12 lakhs for original works. Apart from substantial progress in the construction of important new roads, interesting features of the year's programme were the building of bridges and causeways with the object of keeping important lines of communication open throughout the year, the laying out of net-works of Class III roads in the districts of Mandla and Bilaspur, the opening to traffic of feeder roads along the Itarsi-Betul Railway line and the construction of Forest service roads.

Irrigation. 26. The early cessation of the monsoon created a keen demand for irrigation throughout the Province, while at the same time it caused a deficiency in the supply of water available. A number of irrigation tanks did not fill and could only irrigate a small portion of the commanded areas. However, the area irrigated during the year by the Irrigation Department increased from 49,174 to 71,021 acres. The total revenue assessed was Rs. 2,16,170 as compared with Rs. 1,53,701 in the preceding year, and at the close of the year collections had amounted to Rs. 1,87,043. The expenditure on Protective works was $20\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs, on Productive works $22\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs and on Minor works $5\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs of rupees. The usual difficulty of securing an adequate supply of labour was eased to a certain

extent by the somewhat unfavourable character of the agricultural season, and excellent progress in construction work was made on all the larger and more important projects, particularly on the head works of the Asola-Mendha tank and of the Wainganga and Mahanadi Canal systems. In the north of the Province, where some signs of distress appeared as a result of the failure of the autumn crops, the ordinary programme of construction was expanded, and the fifteen new minor tank works which were started proved very useful and afforded employment to a large number of labourers.

Revenue and Finance.

27. Imperial Revenue in the year 1913-14 amounted to 1,12 lakhs of rupees and expenditure to 70 lakhs as compared with 83¼ lakhs and 64½ lakhs in the preceding year. The greater part of this large increase in receipts is accounted for by a decrease of 21½ lakhs under the head "Adjustment" owing to the absence of the non-recurring assignments made in 1912-13 for Sanitation, Education and discretionary grants, but there were also increased receipts under the heads "Land Revenue," "Stamps," "Excise," "Assessed taxes," "Customs" and "Irrigation—Major Works." The increase in expenditure was mainly due to heavier outlay on buildings and irrigation works. Provincial Revenue, including an opening balance of 90¾ lakhs, amounted to 3,97½ lakhs and expenditure to 2,88 lakhs, leaving a closing balance of 109½ lakhs. Apart from "Adjustment," under which there was a fall of 21½ lakhs, nearly every head of Provincial Revenue showed a more or less considerable increase, the most noteworthy being 7½ lakhs under "Excise," 2 lakhs under "Land Revenue" and 1 lakh under "Stamps." The increase in expenditure was also distributed under a number of heads, the largest increases being 2 lakhs under "Law and Justice—Courts of Law," 1¾ lakhs under "Land Revenue" and 1 lakh each under "Superannuation Allowances," "Civil Works" and "Medical."

Vital Statistics.

28. The birth-rate rose from the exceptionally low figure of 48·24 in 1912 to 49·26 per mille, the increase in the rate being common to almost every district in the Province. The year was a remarkably healthy one, and the death-rate fell from 42·34 to 30·28 per mille: this rate was well below the quinquennial mean of 38·62 and only four lower death-rates were recorded in the preceding twenty years. Deaths of children under five years of age accounted for 57 per cent of the total mortality, but the infant mortality fell from 293·60 to 230·86 per mille. Among the chief diseases, small-pox alone claimed a slightly larger number of victims. Cholera, though not so severe as in 1912, was fairly prevalent in almost all districts, while plague was singularly quiescent and caused a mortality of only 512 as compared with 19,199 in the preceding year. The number of inoculations against plague was only 2,046, but the special plague staff, the organisation of which was completed during the year, was usefully employed on other duties. The general healthiness of the year was reflected in the fall of the rate of mortality from non-epidemic causes from 38·17 to 28·68 per mille.

Emigration.

29. The year was a favourable one for recruitment and witnessed a comparative revival in emigration to the tea gardens of Assam. The number of recruiting agents rose from 4,560 to 5,029 and the number of coolies recruited from 4,966 to 8,063. This increase, however, was merely the expression of economic conditions and did not indicate any real revival in emigration. Moreover, the figures, comparatively high though they are, show that even in a year of agricultural depression labour in Assam has lost its attraction for the people of the Central Provinces.

Medical Relief. 30. There was a net increase in the number of hospitals and dispensaries during the year from 270 to 272. Of this number 27 were maintained by the State, 164 by Local Bodies and 36 by Railways, while the remainder were either private or State-aided institutions. The total number of patients treated at dispensaries was 1,674,980: a fall of 36,290 from the previous year's figure was due to the general healthiness of the year and was confined to the attendance of outdoor patients. The number of surgical operations performed rose again from 45,702 to 47,622. The total receipts increased by more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs of rupees to Rs. 11,41,255: a special grant of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees from Government for the improvement of hospitals and dispensaries accounted for the greater part of this large increase. The total expenditure rose by $1\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs of rupees to Rs. 6,29,549, mainly as the result of heavier outlay on buildings and repairs and an increase under the head of salaries to Medical Officers.

Sanitation. 31. Good progress was made during the year both in the construction of works and in the investigation of new projects. The most important water-works schemes in connection with which construction work was carried on were those of Nagpur, Raipur, Amraoti, Hinganghat and Burhanpur. The chief drainage schemes on which work was in progress were those of Nagpur and Wardha: the outlay on the Nagpur project up to the end of the year amounted to $4\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs of rupees, while the drainage works at Wardha were practically completed. The reconstitution of the Sanitary Board gave a marked impetus to the sanitary branch of Municipal administration, and the improvement in the organisation of the Municipal Sanitary staff led to increased efficiency. The provisions of the Village Sanitation Act were extended to three more villages during the year, bringing the total number up to 80.

Vaccination. 32. The total number of vaccination operations performed in British territory was 622,376 as compared with 574,510 in the preceding year. This increase, towards which both primary and secondary vaccinations contributed, was attributed to diminution of plague epidemics, increase in the staff and their emoluments and the interest taken by district authorities. Comprehensive proposals for reorganising the staff and securing a higher standard of efficiency were drawn up and forwarded by the Sanitary Board for sanction. In Municipal towns 84 per cent of the available children under one year of age were successfully vaccinated. School inspections were instituted with the object of reducing the number of unprotected children, and the question of the appointment by the Education Department of a whole-time medical officer for such inspections was under consideration. The total expenditure was Rs. 84,241, and the cost of each successful operation was Re. 0-2-3 as compared with Re. 0-2-1 in the preceding year. Excellent lymph was manufactured on scientific lines at the new Central Vaccine Depôt, but the supply was limited by the inadequacy of the existing accommodation.

Education. 33. Unforeseen changes in the office of Director owing to illness rendered delay in the development of some of the larger educational schemes inevitable, but the ordinary work of the Department went on smoothly and without disturbance. The strength of the Indian Educational Service was increased by the creation of the four posts of an Inspector of European Schools and Science, two Head Masters of High Schools and a second Inspectress of Schools, while two more Assistant Inspectresses were added to the cadre of the Provincial Educational Service. The pay and prospects of the Subordinate Educational

Service were improved by the raising of the minimum salary of graduate teachers to Rs. 60 and of under-graduate teachers to Rs. 40 per mensem, by the securing of regular promotion on a time-scale and by the provision of a generous supply of special posts on higher pay for selected men. The claims of teachers in Primary Schools also received attention: a scheme was brought into force which not only secures pension for all masters drawing Rs. 11 and upwards per mensem, but also provides for the raising of the pay of all certificated teachers to pensionable level. The lack of an adequate supply of competent teachers is a serious obstacle to the rapid expansion of education, and these reforms were designed to attract a better class of recruit to the lower grades of the teaching profession. In 1913 the Government of India announced their intention of establishing Universities in those provinces in which a demand had arisen for separate institutions of that type. It was eventually decided that the University for the Central Provinces and Berar should be an institution of the teaching type situated at Nagpur with affiliated Colleges in other parts of the Province, and a representative Committee was constituted to frame a detailed scheme. The effect of the large grants recently made by the Government of India for expenditure on public instruction continued to be seen in an expansion of education. The year's figures showed an increase of 333 in the number of schools and of 28,314 in the number of scholars. The increase was common to every stage of education, but it was most marked in the primary stage. There were many signs of growing interest in higher female education, especially in Berar, and a noteworthy feature of the year was the progress of the Amraoti Girls' High School. There was no increase in the number of institutions for Indian girls, but the number of girls attending school rose from 31,337 to 34,214. The Training College at Jubbulpore continued to do excellent work, and teachers who passed through the institution showed unmistakably the beneficial results of their training. A re-training class was opened at Jubbulpore and accommodation for similar classes was provided at Amraoti and Nagpur. The total expenditure on education rose from Rs. 36,58,881 to Rs. 39,80,802 and included an outlay of Rs. 4,61,369 from Government of India grants.

PART II

CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

At pages 1 to 54 of the Administration Report for 1911-12 will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference :—

1—PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE AND CHIEF STAPLES

2—HISTORICAL SUMMARY

3—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION

4—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES

5—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

6—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY

7—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

8—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

2. The Hon'ble Sir Benjamin Robertson, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., I.C.S., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, from the beginning of the year until the 31st December 1913, when he proceeded to South Africa on deputation in connection with the enquiry into the grievances of Indians resident within the Union. From the 1st January 1914 until the 31st March 1914 the office was held by the Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Crump, C.S.I., I.C.S.

9—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

[Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1913.]

Changes in the Administration.

3. There were no changes in the Administration during the year. The succession of Mahant Lal Sarveshwar Das to the *gaddi* of the Nandgaon State was recognised by the Government of India and announced by the Chief Commissioner. The second marriage of the Feudatory Chief of Udaipur was arranged, but did not take place until after the close of the year.

Rainfall and crops.

4. The monsoon gave good and fairly well-distributed rain so long as it lasted, but owing to its early cessation at the end of August agricultural conditions were not generally favourable and harvests were below the normal. The Feudatory Chief of Changbhakhar was granted a loan of Rs. 5,000 by Government for agricultural advances on account of a partial failure of crops, but this failure was to some extent counterbalanced by a good mahua harvest. In Sakti an attempt was made to introduce transplantation of rice, but conditions were not favourable to the success of the experiment.

Trade.

5. Trade was generally normal, and no State reported any substantial falling off either in exports or imports. The restriction on the import of *ghee* into the Jashpur State was removed, and further imports were made into the Sarangarh State of iron presses for crushing sugarcane and pans for the crystallisation of sugar. Labour was ample and wages remained almost stationary.

Condition of the people.

6. The year was peaceful and the general condition of the people remained good. Prices of food-grains increased everywhere, but no distress was reported from any of the Feudatory States except Kawardha, where suspensions and remissions of revenue were ordered in some parts of the State in order to give relief to agriculturists, and forest concessions were granted in the shape of remissions of duty on miscellaneous forest produce. Cholera appeared in Kawardha, Nandgaon and Chhuikhadan, but the epidemic was not serious except in Kawardha, where 500 deaths occurred. Malarial fever caused a number of deaths in

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

Raigarh, while there was an outbreak of small-pox in Chhuikhadan. In general, however, the year was a normally healthy one. Cattle disease was prevalent in Khairagarh and Changbhakhar, but no heavy mortality occurred.

Finance.

7. The financial condition of all the States was satisfactory. The balance of the liabilities left by the late Chief of Korea was paid up in full with interest, and the State is now free of debt. A donation of 5 lakhs of rupees was made by the Nandgaon State to the Rajkumar College, Raipur.

Land Revenue.

8. The Land Revenue demand was easily realised in full in most of the States. Only in Kawardha was it found necessary to grant suspensions and remissions, and even there they were on a comparatively small scale. Agricultural loans were advanced in Bastar, Raigarh, Sakti, Sarangarh, Changbhakhar and Korea.

Settlement.

9. The new wajib-ul-arz was brought into force in the Kawardha State. Settlement operations were in progress in five groups of the Jagdalpur Tahsil of the Bastar State and in Khairagarh, and announcement was made in twenty villages of the latter State. A boundary dispute between the Korea and Surguja States was enquired into by a special boundary officer, and disputes between the Surguja and Jashpur States, between the Raigarh State and Bilaspur District and between the Sakti State and the Korba Zamindari of the Bilaspur District were finally settled, while the dispute between the Khairagarh and Nandgaon States remained unsettled. The Settlement of the Chhuikhadan State, which was announced in 1912, is reported to have worked satisfactorily.

Criminal Law and Justice.

10. The number of offences increased in most of the States, although Raigarh, Sakti and Khairagarh showed a fall. Most of the offences were of a petty nature, but in the Raigarh State five heinous offences were reported, two of them being murders. In Jashpur the number of Criminal and Civil Courts was increased by one each owing to the investiture of the heir-apparent with the powers of a 3rd Class Magistrate and limited powers of a Civil Judge. There was a similar rise in Surguja and Bastar. In Raigarh the nephew of the Feudatory Chief was empowered as a 3rd Class Magistrate, while in Udaipur one Criminal Court was abolished.

Jails.

11. Admissions to Jail were normal and the health of prisoners was good. At the close of the year the new Jail buildings in the Udaipur and Khairagarh States were approaching completion. In the Khairagarh Jail the main industry was cloth-weaving with fly-shuttle looms, while in the Chhuikhadan State experiments were made in cotton and juar cultivation in the Jail fields.

Forests.

12. The reserved forests in Bastar were thrown open for the collection of dry wood, grass, leaves, fruit and roots, and the restrictions in regard to unreserved lands were revised and simplified. In Sarangarh also, as a protective measure against fires, the reserved block was thrown open and the public allowed to remove dried wood and bamboos. In Kawardha similar concessions were made to relieve distress. An increase in the forest income of the Udaipur and Kawardha States was largely due to the sale of harra and to the collection of royalty on sleepers exported by the Bengal Timber Trading Company. In Changbhakhar a similar increase was secured by the sale of minor forest produce and from grazing dues. In the Sarangarh State minor forest offences were again numerous.

Excise.

13. Udaipur, Sakti, Khairagarh, Korea and Makrai all showed an increase in Excise revenue. Ten opium, ganja and bhang shops were opened in the Jashpur State. Smuggling of Baluchar ganja from the Sambalpur District into Raigarh and Sarangarh continued, and smuggling of ganja and opium was reported from the Rewa State into Changbhakhar. The question of obtaining these drugs through Government was under consideration. Ten persons were convicted under the Excise Act in Khairagarh, and there were two prosecutions in Nandgaon and one in Korea. The advisibility of introducing the contract supply system in certain parts of the Kawardha State was considered in the course of the year.

Education.

14. Education continued to receive due attention, and in many of the States there was a rise in the number of schools and pupils. Thirty new schools were opened in Sarangarh, five in Udaipur, three in Jashpur, two in Raigarh and one

each in Changbhakhar and Chhuikhadan, while the Primary School at Jagdalpur in the Bastar State was raised to the status of a Vernacular Middle School. English Middle Schools were started at Sakti and at Baikunthpur in the Korea State. Owing to the increase in the number of schools and scholars, a whole-time Deputy Inspector of Schools was appointed for the Jashpur State, while a similar post in the Sakti State was abolished. Two new school buildings were constructed, and hostels and Headmasters' quarters were under construction, in the Nandgaon State, while in Raigarh a High School building was begun. The Sports Club opened in 1910 in Kawardha did good work in the physical training of boys. Efforts are being made to secure that each Chief should recruit as many as possible of his officials from among his own subjects and should provide suitable training for them within the State.

Public Works.

15. Until July 1913 the States of Khairagarh, Nandgaon and Chhuikhadan were under the management of the Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh States Division. After the abolition of this Division, public works were executed under the supervision of the authorities of the States concerned. Nearly every State showed an increase of expenditure: most of the money was spent on maintenance and repairs of public roads, buildings and tanks. Among the more important buildings completed were the Police lines and an operating room at the dispensary in Khairagarh, while useful works under construction included the school buildings already mentioned, Jail buildings and quarters for a Lady Doctor at Khairagarh and the Bodla-Bhandar tanks in the Kawardha State.

10—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

The Season.

16. The monsoon of 1913 broke rather late, but good and well-distributed showers in the latter half of June enabled a good beginning to be made with the sowing of the kharif crops, and germination was satisfactory. During July and August sufficient rain was received everywhere except in the rice-growing districts of the Chhattisgarh Division, and at the end of August the agricultural situation was favourable: the sowing of the kharif crops and the transplantation of rice had been practically completed all over the Province, and the preparation of land for the rabi sowings had been started. In the first fortnight of September many districts received moderate to heavy rain, but in the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions and in the eastern portion of the Nerbudda Division the rainfall was deficient. The second half of September was practically rainless everywhere, with the result that rice and millets suffered considerable damage in almost all districts, though cotton, til and juar did fairly well, except on the lightest soils. In the north of the Province the break continued throughout October, except for a single storm which gave beneficial rain in parts of the Narsinghpur and Saugor districts, and this prolonged drought caused irreparable damage to the kharif crops in all the districts of the Jubbulpore Division except Seoni. Elsewhere useful showers were received, which enabled the kharif crops to make a partial recovery and facilitated the sowing of the rabi crops. The winter rains were generally good: in particular, the showers in the first fortnight of December revived the young rabi plants whose growth had been retarded by want of moisture in the seed-bed. Severe hailstorms in February and March did only local damage, but the heavy rain at harvest time in the Jubbulpore Division was more serious and caused considerable loss in such crops as had been cut and were exposed on the threshing floors. The important cotton crop was better than was originally anticipated, but the rice in Chhattisgarh was distinctly poor, and the outturn of neither the kharif nor the rabi harvest for the Province as a whole exceeded 75 per cent of a normal crop. One consequence of this was a rise in the price of all food-grains: rice, kodon and kutki rose by 11 per cent, juar by 7 per cent, wheat by 16 per cent and gram by 28 per cent. Fodder was dear and scarce in the north of the Province in the latter half of the year, but the supply of water was generally sufficient. In the Hoshangabad district alone did cattle suffer severely from want of food and water.

In spite of the unfavourable character of the season, the condition of all classes of people in most parts of the Province was satisfactory: wages ruled high, and ample employment was available in mines and factories and on irrigation

and railway works. The only districts in which some degree of distress existed were Damoh, Mandla and Jubbulpore. The exceptionally fine rabi crops of the previous year had fortified these districts to meet the strain and the cultivating classes displayed an unexpected power of resistance, while the immediate distress was promptly relieved by a large expansion of the programmes of road, irrigation and forest works, liberal advances to cultivators for land improvement and the purchase of seed-grain and the distribution of gratuitous relief doles on a strictly limited scale. No permanent deterioration in these districts is anticipated as a result of the poorness of the season. In point of view of general health the year was an exceptionally happy one. The birth-rate rose from 48·24 in the preceding year to 49·26, and the death-rate fell from 42·34 to 30·28 per mille, which is well below the quinquennial mean of 38·62. Plague was singularly quiescent, while cholera, though fairly prevalent, was not so severe as in the previous year, and there was a marked decrease in the mortality from non-epidemic causes.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

1—REALISATION OF REVENUE

REALISATION OF REVENUE

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1912-13.]

Central Provinces.

17. The total malguzari demand of land revenue on the roll in the Central Provinces amounted to Rs. 96,40,900 against Rs. 95,50,017 in the preceding year, the increase being due principally to Settlement changes in the Damoh and Wardha districts. At the beginning of the year the arrears of land revenue remaining to be collected were Rs. 2,10,567, the greater part of which was due to suspensions on account of damage by rust and hail in the Jubbulpore, Seoni and Mandla districts in the previous year. Of this large sum Rs. 24,945 was suspended, and the remainder was collected in full with the exception of one trifling item of Rs. 19 in the Drug district. The collections on account of the current demand were remarkably good. Excluding the amount of Rs. 56,337, which was suspended on account of partial failure of crops, the demand for 1912-13 was collected in full, except for a sum of Rs. 67 in the Chanda district. In the Nagpur Division there was a very noticeable increase of Rs. 43,251 in fluctuating land revenue, mainly due to the proceeds from the sales of proprietary rights in malik-sarkar plots in accordance with the revised orders on that subject. Miscellaneous land revenue also showed a large increase of Rs. 76,964, owing principally to increased rates of royalty on manganese and to increase in exports of that mineral, and also, in the Nagpur district, to large recoveries of arrears of dead rent and royalty, which had been allowed to accumulate owing to the concessions not having been brought on the demand register in the District Office.

Berar.

18. The demand on account of fixed collections increased from Rs. 90,94,677 to Rs. 91,16,774, chiefly owing to the falling due of deferred enhancements. The arrears of the previous year were only Rs. 31, of which Rs. 19 was remitted and the remainder collected. In the current year no remissions or suspensions were granted, but the demand was collected in full with great ease. Miscellaneous collections increased by about Rs. 66,000 on account of fees for measurement and for copies of Record-of-Rights entries supplied to Kabzedars at the time of publication of the record. The greater part of this demand accrued and was realised without difficulty before there was legal authority for the demand, because the people realised that they were getting value for their money.

Coercive processes.

19. In the Central Provinces there is little that calls for particular remark in the matter of coercive processes issued for the recovery of land revenue except a small increase in the number of warrants of arrest, which was due to a somewhat indiscriminate use of that process in the Drug district. On the other hand, there was a fall in the number of attachment orders and in the number of attachments effected, while eight sales were actually carried out as compared with nine in the preceding year. In Berar, out of 231 attachment orders issued, attachment was effected in 13 cases only and in no instance was property brought to sale.

Government loans.

20. The Government Loan Account of the Central Provinces and Berar (Principal) is shown in the following statement. The figures are for the financial year ending the 31st March 1914 :—

Statement showing Loan Account of the Central Provinces and Berar (Principal) for the Financial year ending 31st March 1914.

	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.		Under the Land Improvement Loans Act.	
	With interest.	Without interest.	With interest.	Without interest.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Outstanding at the commencement of the year, *i. e.*, on the 1st April 1913.	4,01,888 12 2	75 12 9	10,09,112 10 9	...
Remitted during the year 1913-14 ...	4,860 6 4	...	89 12 4	...
Collected do. do. ...	3,01,263 7 2	33 0 0	2,78,387 2 8	...
Advanced do. do. ..	4,84,331 9 4	...	6,66,222 15 2	...
Outstanding at the close of the year, *i. e.*, on the 31st March 1914.	5,80,096 8 0	42 12 9	13,96,858 10 11	...

REALISATION OF REVENUE

Central Provinces.

21. The year being one of general prosperity, collections under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and the Land Improvement Loans Act in the Central Provinces were good; recoveries under the former Act on account of principal amounted to 94 per cent of the demand, while under the latter Act 96 per cent of the demand was realised. Suspensions aggregated Rs. 14,245 and Rs. 3,766 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and the Land Improvement Loans Act respectively, and remissions amounted to Rs. 3,251 and Rs. 1,603 respectively. The suspensions were mostly granted in the Nimar and Raipur districts. There seems to have been very little misuse of land improvement loans. The amount distributed during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans Act exceeds by more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees the sum advanced in the previous year, and the expansion occurred mostly in areas where the crops had suffered damage from local causes, or where there was a demand for the cultivation of sugarcane. The working of the transactions under the two Acts for the year resulted in a substantial profit to Government of more than Rs. 28,000, but as loss rather than profit was to be anticipated in a season such as that of the agricultural year 1913-14, the consideration of the question of utilising these profits on the improvement of agriculture was deferred.

Berar.

22. In Berar the amount advanced during the year was not very large Solvent cultivators in the open country can readily obtain money at a reasonable rate of interest, and the Rs. 86,000 actually advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and the Land Improvement Loans Act was, as usual, mostly distributed in the hilly tracts where cultivation is in a more backward condition. Collections were effected without difficulty, and in many cases advance payments were voluntarily made. The net result of the year's working was a profit of Rs. 10,422 to Government.

SURVEYS

2—SURVEYS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1913.]

23. The addition of two traversers brought the local traverse survey party up to a strength of eight traversers and five computers. The party worked in eight districts, and the traverse amounted to 2,038 linear miles of survey in 308 villages, in addition to sub-traverse in 130 villages. On a requisition for help in connection with certain boundary disputes, two traversers were deputed to work under the Special Boundary Officer in the Chhattisgarh States Division. The work was scattered over large areas involving long marches, and was generally satisfactory.

SETTLEMENT

3—SETTLEMENT

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1913 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1913.]

24. During the year the orders of the Government of India were received on the final reports for the Drug and Jubbulpore districts and for the Bilaspur Zamindaris, and forecast reports on the re-settlement of the Hoshangabad and Chhindwara districts were submitted. Operations were in progress during the year in the following districts:—

Saugor.—Attestation was completed in 742 villages, of which 515 were inspected by the Settlement Officer. Rent-rates were sanctioned for nine groups comprising 395 villages, and assessment reports for five groups were submitted for the orders of the Local Administration. Illness amongst the superior staff was responsible for the somewhat short outturn of reports.

Nimar.—Attestation of the remaining 544 malguzari and 178 ryotwari villages was carried out and inspection was completed. Rent-rate reports for 538 malguzari and 79 ryotwari villages, and assessment reports for 520 malguzari and 249 ryotwari villages, were submitted. Revised rents and revenue were announced in 357 villages.

Nagpur.—558 villages were attested and were inspected by the Settlement Officer. 1,110 villages remained for attestation. Rent-rate reports for 657 villages, and assessment reports for seven groups containing 460 villages, were submitted. The year's programme was punctually carried out in spite of the disorganisation of the staff owing to illness.

Nagpur, Hoshangabad and Chhindwara.—In these three districts progress was made with the correction of maps and records preparatory to Settlement. The numbers of villages dealt with were 642, 411 and 573 respectively.

4—LAND RECORDS

LAND RECORDS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1913 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1913.]

Land Records establishment.

25. The revision of the patwari halkabandi of the Betul, Bilaspur (Khalsa) and Narsinghpur districts involved the addition of one Revenue Inspector and seven patwaris in Betul and of two Revenue Inspectors and 12 patwaris in Bilaspur, while in Narsinghpur six patwari circles were abolished. Proposals have been submitted for an increase in the staff of Assistant Superintendents of Land Records and Revenue Inspectors in Berar on account of the additional work imposed by the maintenance of the Record-of-Rights. The revised cadre of Superintendents of Land Records sanctioned by the Government of India was brought into force with effect from the 1st October 1912, and the amalgamation of the superior Land Record staff with the cadre of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars was under consideration.

Boundary marks.

26. Village boundary marks in the Central Provinces were maintained in a satisfactory condition. Apart from a few cases where Settlement operations caused unavoidable delay, circle and village note-books were up to date in all but four districts of the Central Provinces, and efforts were made to remedy the defect in those districts. In Berar the circle note-books were written up to date.

Testing of village papers.

27. The checking of village papers by the Land Record staff, and by Deputy Commissioners and their subordinates, was generally adequate. In many districts, however, a tendency was again observed on the part of Revenue Inspectors to put quantity before quality in their inspections, while Superintendents and their assistants were sometimes inclined to neglect the principle that, to be of any real value, their checking must be the checking of Revenue Inspectors' work, and not independent inspection of patwaris' work. There was a good deal of unpunctuality in the filing of the annual papers, although there was no general addition to the work of the Land Record staff. The condition of village maps was satisfactory, and in Berar good progress was made in the preparation of the Record-of-Rights, the value of which was fully appreciated by people interested in the land.

Conduct of the Land Record staff.

28. The number of patwaris who had permission to live outside their circles increased from 171 to 187 during the year, while the number residing outside their circles without permission decreased from 262 to 248. The practice of fining patwaris was abolished during the year, and the number of punishments under this head accordingly showed a considerable decrease. Under every other head there was an increase, but the total number of punishments fell from 1,366 in 1911-12 to 1,283. Very few punishments were inflicted on Revenue Inspectors and none on Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records. The somewhat unsatisfactory quality of the Land Record work in a number of districts must be largely attributed to the weakness of several of the Superintendents, who are old men whom a lifetime spent in the drudgery of field-to-field inspection has rendered physically incapable not only of performing efficiently their duties of inspection but also of enforcing discipline among their subordinates. It is hoped that the improvement in the prospects of the superior Land Record staff and the proposed amalgamation with the cadre of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars will secure a higher standard of efficiency.

5—WASTE LANDS

WASTE LANDS

[Reports on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for 1912-13.]

Central Provinces.

29. The total area available for allotment at the beginning of the year was 289,444 acres, of which 62,007 acres were allotted during the year; after allowing for relinquishment, the balance at the end of the year was 278,415 acres. The chief districts in the Central Provinces in which ryotwari form of tenure exists are Mandla, Seoni, Nimar, Betul, Chanda and Balaghat, and every one of these districts showed an increase in the area occupied, except Mandla. The increase

WASTE LANDS

of 5,875 acres in Chanda is partly due to new allotments and partly to the declaration of certain patch-cultivation villages to be regularly settled ryotwari villages. The decrease of about 5,000 acres in Mandla is ascribed to the habit of the aboriginal cultivator of shifting his ground to avoid payment of rent for fallows. Cultivation in the ryotwari tracts is, however, now more stable than was formerly the case; progressive and commercial tendencies are becoming apparent, and with them has arisen a demand for the relaxation of the conditions on which allotments are at present made. The concessions asked for have hitherto been withheld, because it is doubtful whether they would be in the interests of the persons who ask for them, but there is little doubt that a relaxation of the conditions would stimulate colonisation, and the subject is at present under consideration.

Berar.

30. In Berar the area available for cultivation in Khalsa villages was 41,688 acres, and the area allotted during the year was 1,933 acres. In Buldana 10,594 acres of forest were disforested and transferred to the free-grazing area, and similar disforestments were made also in Amraoti and Akola. These areas, as well as the formerly existing free-grazing lands, will be managed as village waste.

GOVERNMENT ESTATES

6—GOVERNMENT ESTATES

31. There are no Government Estates in the Central Provinces and Berar.

WARDS' ESTATES

7—WARDS' ESTATES

[Report on the management by Government of private estates for the year ending the 30th September 1913.]

Wards' Estates.

32. At the beginning of the year there were 75 estates under the management of the Court of Wards; during the year six were relinquished and five were brought under management, leaving a balance at the close of the year of 74. In all the six estates relinquished material improvement was effected under Court of Wards management. The 69 estates which remained under management throughout the year, and for which statistics have been supplied, occupied a total area of rather more than six and a quarter million acres. The year was one in which the prosperity of the agricultural classes was well maintained; collection of rents was made in most estates without difficulty, and the financial results of an energetic year's working were generally satisfactory.

Income.

33. The total gross income of the 69 estates, excluding the opening balance and loans received, amounted to Rs. 21,10,161. A noticeable decrease of Rs. 59,062 in the income from estates of the Nagpur Division was due to the fact that the figures of the previous year were swollen by a few unusual items, aggregating Rs. 58,585, which represented the sale-proceeds of immoveable property. The total demand on account of rents, including arrears, due for collection was Rs. 8,26,749; except in three estates in which the realisations were only 62, 83 and 87 per cent, respectively, collections were good and amounted in all to Rs. 7,68,555. The total outstandings, suspended and unsuspended, for all estates in the Provinces were reduced from Rs. 61,242 to Rs. 36,088, the suspended balance standing at Rs. 2,274 as compared with Rs. 20,026 in the previous year. The total income from forests declined by Rs. 28,097 from the previous year's figure of Rs. 4,50,415, but the decrease is accounted for by the relinquishment of two estates in the Raipur district in which the forest income of the previous year was Rs. 1,02,477, and in almost every estate where this source of income is of importance there was an increase in forest receipts. Progress was made, with the co-operation of Forest Officers, in the preparation of simple working-plans for the exploitation of forests under the management of the Court of Wards.

Expenditure.

34. The total gross ordinary expenditure of all estates fell from Rs. 12,23,492 to Rs. 11,51,600, of which Rs. 3,21,300 was on account of land revenue and cesses. The incidence of cost of management on the gross ordinary income for all estates remained at the previous year's figure of 14 per cent. Personal expenses, including charges for education, declined from Rs. 3,01,782 to Rs. 2,76,294, but the decrease was more apparent than real and was chiefly due to the relinquishments in the Chhattisgarh Division, where the Bindra-Nawagarh Estate alone accounted for over half a lakh of the expenditure under this head in the previous year. The expenditure on investments, whether in the way of estate improvements, the granting of agricultural loans, or otherwise, amounted

WARDS' ESTATES

to Rs. 3,77,596 as compared with Rs. 4,23,724 in the preceding year. In the matter of improvements good progress was made in all estates which were not too small or too heavily indebted to leave a surplus after providing a working balance and paying off the fixed debt instalments.

Debts.

35. The debts due by encumbered estates at the beginning of the year amounted to Rs. 9,17,806, and additional debts amounting to Rs. 72,302 were incurred during the year, out of which Rs. 52,087 was spent in consolidating debts. A substantial advance was made in the liquidation of debts, Rs. 1,95,060 having been devoted to the repayment of principal out of current income. At the close of the year the total liabilities of indebted estates showed a satisfactory decrease of about one and three-quarter lakhs of rupees. During the year it was observed that the control of the Court of Wards over their wards in the matter of incurring debts was seriously threatened by judicial rulings to the effect that the provisions of Section 68 of the Indian Contract Act override Section 31 of the Central Provinces Court of Wards Act. Proposals for the amendment of the Act were submitted to, and have been sanctioned by, the Government of India.

General.

36. Home-farm cultivation was carried on by the Court of Wards in thirty-three estates. In a number of these, where cultivation was recently started, no immediate profit could be expected, but in the estates where cultivation was more or less successful the net profit per acre ranged from 1 pie to Rs. 8-12-0. In one estate a cattle-breeding farm was started at an initial cost of Rs. 1,264, while in another a winnowing machine and sugar-pressing mill were purchased for the use of the people of the estate. There was little demand for cash loans for agricultural purposes, but liberal advances of seed-grain were given everywhere to the tenants of the estates. Investments in shares in Co-operative Banks amounted to more than Rs. 85,000. The education of minor wards and their relatives continued to receive proper attention, and, with few exceptions, their progress and conduct were satisfactory. Practical training was given to wards or their heirs, where possible, by associating them in the management of their respective estates as Assistant Managers, kamdars or Forest muharrirs.

8—REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES

REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1913 and of Berar for the year ending 31st July 1913.]

General Conditions. Central Provinces.

37. The meteorological conditions of the agricultural year ending the 31st May 1913 were generally favourable to agriculture. The monsoon set in late and was not well established until the second week of July, but in the latter part of July and throughout August the rainfall was copious and well distributed. The sowing of certain minor kharif crops was restricted, but the rain in August was particularly favourable to the transplantation of rice. A break in September facilitated weeding operations, but its prolongation slightly affected the kharif crops. The apprehension of serious damage, however, was removed by a general and most opportune rainfall towards the end of the month, which secured the autumn crops and assured favourable conditions for the rabi sowings. November was an unusually wet month, especially in the Jubbulpore Division, and the moisture was most beneficial to the young rabi crops. Favourable conditions continued until February, when heavy rain, accompanied in many places by severe hailstorms, did a certain amount of damage.

Berar.

38. In Berar the agricultural conditions were generally not so favourable as in the Central Provinces. The principal features of the monsoon were a late and uncertain commencement, heavy rain in the middle and too little at the end. These features, though common throughout Berar, varied considerably in intensity in different tracts. In the west and centre the early rains were so capricious that a considerable area intended for cotton could not be sown in time to ensure a fair outturn, and hardly any rain fell after the end of August, while in the south-east the late break of the monsoon was noticeable, but was of less importance than the heavy and continuous rainfall in the middle which seriously interfered with intercultivation and weeding. In the greater part of the Amraoti district the unfavourable conditions were not so pronounced, and the only noticeable variation from the normal was the absence of the usual October rains.

REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES

39. Both in the Central Provinces and Berar the year was one in which the prosperity of the agricultural classes was well maintained. In the Central Provinces there was no widespread calamity, and in spite of damage from hail, which in some places was serious, an exceptionally fine rabi crop was reaped in the Nerbudda and Jubbulpore Divisions. In most of the Nerbudda Division the rabi outturn was the best on record within the last 20 years, and in every district of the two Divisions the wheat crop was particularly successful. The outturn of all crops over the whole Province was estimated at 97 per cent of the normal. The total area occupied for cultivation increased by 93,404 acres, the expansion amounting to 35,308 acres in the Jubbulpore Division being particularly remarkable. In Berar the effect of the somewhat unfavourable monsoon conditions was not so marked as might have been expected. The decrease in the cropped area as compared with that of the preceding year was only a little over 100,000 acres, and no district reported an outturn of less than 75 per cent of the normal crop of cotton, or 70 per cent of the average crop of juar. The all-important cotton crop was not appreciably smaller in bulk for Berar as a whole than the fine crop of the previous year, while the high prices obtainable for the produce were maintained long enough to enable the cultivators to reap the benefit, even if traders suffered some loss on sales effected after the price had fallen. Cholera and small-pox prevailed for a short period in several districts of the Central Provinces, and in Berar the short monsoon resulted in a continuance of the scarcity of water, and cholera was unusually widespread, but plague was happily almost absent throughout the Central Provinces and Berar.

40. The scarcity of agricultural labour was again a prominent feature both in the Central Provinces and Berar, especially at the time of harvest. In Berar the shortage has become chronic, though it was relieved to some extent by immigration from parts of the Bombay Presidency during the year, while in the Central Provinces it was again reported to be a cause of friction between landlords and tenants and a source of loss to malguzars owing to their inability to get their heavy wheat crop harvested and marketed in time. The obvious remedy is the substitution of mechanical contrivances for hand-labour, and there was a satisfactory increase in the number of sales of new and improved implements during the year. The fodder question remained acute in Berar, and little success attended the experiment of placing on the market baled grass from Government forest, but there are indications that cultivators are beginning to show greater forethought in storing their own supplies of fodder.

41. There was no check during the year in the growth of a close and sympathetic understanding between the people and Government which has been so marked a feature of the administration of the Province during recent years. The efforts of the Agriculture and Veterinary Departments are being gradually successful in breaking down the opposition of the conservative cultivating classes to the introduction of improved methods of agriculture, and the genuine appreciation of the work of Government in this direction is proved by the increasing extent to which the aid of these Departments is voluntarily invoked. Agricultural Associations and Co-operative Credit Societies continued to work together harmoniously and, apart from their functions of popularising fresh agricultural ideas and teaching the value of co-operation in general, proved to be of great service in assisting District Officers to get into touch with the aims and aspirations of the mass of the people.

Tenants.

42. Rental collections were generally good, and in Bilaspur and Chanda amounted to 99 per cent of the demand. The total area included in holdings in the Central Provinces rose by 93,404 acres. Nearly every district shared in the expansion, but the increase in the Jubbulpore Division of 35,308 acres is remarkable and is attributed partly to the encouraging effect of favourable seasons and partly to the setting free to allotment of culturable land deliberately held back during the tendency of Settlement operations. Recent years have witnessed a tendency for tenants to increase their holdings in a slightly faster proportion than the home-farm of the landlords has expanded, but the variation in the percentage of the occupied area held by the landlords is not very marked: in 1912-13 it was 18·84 as compared with 19·01 five years previously.

Landlords.

43. Transfers of proprietary rights affected a slightly larger area than in the preceding year, and the prices realised generally indicated a keen demand for land. An extraordinary case was reported from Jubbulpore of a decree of Rs. 8,66,000, including compound interest for 60 years on an original debt of Rs. 12,000, for which two villages passed to a mortgagee under a foreclosure decree. The area held as *sir* in the Central Provinces increased by 9,988 acres, and the conferment of *sir* rights by Settlement Officers more than counterbalanced the wastage that occurred when villages were sold without sanction to the transfer of occupancy rights in the *sir*.

Landlords and tenants. Central Provinces.

44. The relations between landlords and tenants continued to be generally satisfactory, though individual cases came to light of acts of oppression by landlords and the sufferings of village communities from the evils of absentee landlordism. One of the results of the undoubted advance in prosperity and enlightenment which is now apparent in the Central Provinces, and which would have been impossible but for the example which was first set by the landlords, has been the increasing independence of the tenants and the consequent intensification of the cleavage of interest between the two classes, and a transition period of friction until both parties have settled down to the changed conditions must be regarded as part of the price of progress. If the tenants still require protection to secure their rights, the position of the landlord might well be strengthened in the matter of facilities for rent-collection, and this question is to receive attention in the approaching revision of the Tenancy Act.

Berar.

45. In Berar land riots showed no sign of decrease, although action was freely taken under Section 145 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and it appears that more deterrent sentences are required to check the evil. In a number of the *izara* villages very strained relations continued between the landlords and their tenants, but a recent judicial ruling has removed an obstacle to the framing of a new Tenancy Law for Berar, and this matter is now under consideration.

CHAPTER III

PROTECTION

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

1—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

46. Until the 10th November 1913 the Legislative Authority for the Central Provinces was the Council of the Governor-General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations, while legislation for Berar was effected by notifications issued by the Governor-General in Council under the power conferred on him by the Indian (Foreign Jurisdiction) Order in Council, 1902. With effect from the 10th November 1913, however, the territories for the time being administered by the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces were by Proclamation declared to be a Province to which the provisions of the Indian Councils Act, 1861 (24 and 25 Vict., C. 67), touching the making of Laws and Regulations for the peace and good government of the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay, were made applicable. During the year steps were taken to give effect to this Proclamation, but the Council was not actually established till after the close of the period dealt with.

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

2—COURSE OF LEGISLATION

47. No Act specially affecting the Central Provinces was passed by the Imperial Legislature during the year 1913. By Foreign Department Notification No. 3510—1-B., dated the 3rd November 1913, certain enactments enumerated therein were made applicable to Berar, subject to any amendments to which the enactments were for the time being subject in the Central Provinces. Certain amendments were also made to the Berar Patels and Patwaris Law, 1900.

POLICE

3—POLICE

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1913, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Crime, General.

48. The Central Provinces enjoyed almost complete immunity from plague throughout the year and the economic conditions during the first half of the year were favourable, but the premature cessation of the monsoon was responsible for a deterioration in the autumn, particularly in the north of the Province. The prompt measures of relief, however, which were adopted in the scarcity tracts, were successful in preventing any large increase in the number of petty offences against property in all the districts most affected by the failure of crops, with the exception of Saugor, although actual distress had begun to make itself felt before the end of the year. The number of offences reported to the Police rose from the previous year's figure of 27,654 to 32,236. Heinous crime was slightly more common, but the increase of 3,478 under the head of minor offences against property was most marked. This large increase was partly due to the somewhat unfavourable economic conditions which prevailed during the latter part of the year and to the influx of foreigners in large numbers on to railway construction works, but to a great extent it is to be attributed to continued improvement in the reporting and registration of crime and to the new rule under which the Railway Police for the first time registered reports of missing goods as thefts. Concealment of crime was still far from uncommon and in certain cases compelled a resort to prosecution of village officers, but the improvement in reporting and registration was only one of the indications that the understanding between the Police and the public is becoming closer and more helpful. The relations between Government and the people were excellent, and political crime was conspicuous by its absence.

Offences against the State, the person and property.

49. The number of offences against the State rose from 318 to 418. The increase is mainly accounted for under the head of riots and is the more noteworthy in that action was taken much more freely than in the past under the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code. The number of murders increased from 188 to 225. Dacoities rose from 46 to 49 and robberies from 218

to 262, but in both cases a considerable proportion of the reports were struck off as false. Two noted robbers were captured by the Police during the year: one was Sital Kalar, who escaped in 1911 from the Seoni Jail where he was lying under sentences aggregating 45 years, and the other was Deoji Koli, an armed and dangerous robber on whose head there was a reward of Rs. 500 and who had been committing robberies in the Yeotmal and Akola Districts for several years past. Disputes concerning immoveable property decreased from 367 to 317, and serious mischief and cognate offences from 504 to 446. Arson cases numbered only 416 against 481 in the previous year, and the great majority of them remained undetected as usual. There were 42 reports of cattle-poisoning against 23 in the preceding year, and of these 20 were in the Chhattisgarh Division. The number of reports of house-breaking rose from 7,125 to 7,281, but the value of the property stolen fell by nearly a lakh of rupees and the increase may safely be attributed to better reporting.

Police action.

50. The Central Provinces Police added another year of generally efficient and successful service to its record. The results of investigations showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous year as regards both successful investigation and prosecution of cases and the recovery of stolen property, and while this statistical improvement cannot safely be regarded as anything more than a casual variation, there is a general consensus of testimony among superior Police and Judicial Officers to the greater cleanness of the investigations that are now made. Among the measures indicated as essential to the continuity of this improvement were the retention of Station-house Officers for longer periods in the same circle to enable them to cultivate good relations with the people and acquire an intimate knowledge of their charge, the enlargement of the cadre of investigating officers to an extent which would reduce the proportion of investigations which are now necessarily left to be taken up by Head Constables and would ensure that no Sub-Inspector would be required to take independent charge of a Station-house until he had had adequate experience as an additional investigating officer, and a more stringent enforcement of the principle that the first and most important duty of a Circle Inspector is the inspection and supervision of the work of his Station-house Officers and not the independent investigation of cases. In this connection it was noted during the year that the recently issued rules regarding discretion as to refusal of investigation were worked somewhat unevenly, and that undue importance was still attached to statistics.

The health, conduct and discipline of the students at the Saugor Training School were, as usual, excellent. The working of the specialised branches of Police Administration was generally satisfactory, though the Criminal Investigation Department is still too youthful to have succeeded in fulfilling in their entirety the objects for which it was constituted, and it was noted that sufficient use was not made of the services of the Finger-print Bureau experts. The experiments of instructing the Police in the identification of foot-prints and in "First aid to the injured" met with sufficient success to justify their continuance.

There were three cases during the year in which it was found necessary to prosecute Police officers for ill-treatment of parties concerned in investigations; one of these cases ended in acquittal on appeal. None of them was of a very serious nature, though they were sufficiently serious to necessitate judicial proceedings.

Rural and Punitive Police.

51. There are no Rural Police in the Central Provinces. Punitive Police forces were imposed on the villages of Bamhni in the Narsinghpur district, Kumhari in the Raipur district, Kakori in the Bhandara district, Jhurki in the Seoni district and Mhasla in the Akola district. The reasons for these impositions were lawlessness, attended in four cases out of the five by loss of life, and concealment of heinous crime.

Establishment.

52. There was one retirement during the year from the Indian Police. The sanctioned strength of Inspectors was raised from 147 to 148 in order to give a third Circle Inspector to the Mandla district, and the cadre of Sub-Inspectors was increased from 685 to 702 in order to fill district cadres under the scheme for the reallocation of Station-houses which approached completion during the year and to strengthen the prosecuting staff. The number of

Sub-Inspectors attached to the Criminal Investigation Department was reduced by two. The number of probationers attached to the Saugor Training School remained at the previous year's figure of 55. The sanctioned strength of Head Constables was increased from 1,716 to 1,721 and that of Constables from 9,256 to 9,263, but the whole increase occurred in the Railway Police and was due to the opening of additional sections of railway line. At the beginning of the year there were four districts in which reallocation had not been completed, and in three of these partial reallocation was effected. The cost of the force increased by Rs. 96,000 and amounted to Rs. 34,05,000. The increase was due chiefly to the additions to the force detailed above and to larger expenditure on travelling allowance and railway warrants. The success of the experiment of placing recruits under a three years' agreement is indicated by the decrease from 429 to 340 in the number of voluntary resignations. Difficulty was experienced, as usual, in recruiting Constables, especially in those districts in which the cost of living has increased to such an extent that the Constable's pay is below the ordinary market rate of wages for unskilled labour. There was, however, an improvement in recruiting during the year, and the provisional sanction of the Government of India to the proposals for the grant of local allowances to Constables stationed in the expensive districts of Berar and the Central Provinces districts of Nagpur and Wardha should secure a continuance of this improvement. Effect was also given in the latter part of the year to the recently sanctioned revision of the scale of pay of Head Constables. The improvement in the health of the force was maintained; the number of deaths among the rank and file was 117 as compared with 130 in 1912, while the percentage of admissions to hospital was slightly lower than in the preceding year.

Miscellaneous.

53. Ten officers and 166 men were dismissed and 121 officers and 786 men were otherwise punished departmentally. These figures, especially in the case of officers, show a large increase over those of the previous year, but with regard to other punishments supersessions for promotion were included for the first time as departmental punishments, while the majority of the officers dismissed were young Sub-Inspectors directly recruited from the Training School, in whose case the extreme punishment of dismissal was necessary for conduct which under the old system would have involved reduction to the rank of Head Constable. The number of rewards other than by promotion showed a satisfactory increase from 3,978 to 4,319. Excellent progress continued to be made during the year with the construction of Police buildings: over four lakhs of rupees was spent on major works and more than half a lakh on minor works. The relations of the Central Provinces Police with the neighbouring Native States continued to be excellent and work was simplified by the introduction of rules for direct correspondence between the Police Authorities of Native States and British Police officers.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

4—CRIMINAL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1913, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Crime.

54. The total number of offences reported rose from 39,820 to 44,332, of which 1,584 were a legacy from the year 1912. This large increase, one of no less than 11·4 per cent, is out of proportion to the increase in cases found to be true, which amounted to 7·6 per cent. The number of complaints dealt with under Section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, rose as the natural outcome of the increase in the total number of cases. Offences under the Indian Penal Code numbered 32,940 as against 29,785 in the year 1912. The increase was not particularly marked under any head, though offences under Chapter XI and offences under Chapter XVI affecting life showed a substantial rise. The increase, moreover, to which nearly every species of crime contributed, was distributed over almost the whole of the Province. Offences under Special and Local Laws rose from 10,035 to 11,392, an increase of 13·5 per cent. Offences under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act rose from 290 to 768, and a similar increase in offences under the Railways Act indicates that the Railway officials exercised vigilance over the travelling public. The rise from 1,444 to 1,753 cases under the Cattle Trespass Act was partly due to the gradual increase in the number of pounds. Offences under the Municipal Law remained almost stationary in Berar, but in the Central Provinces they fell from 2,347 to 1,959. Action was taken against one person under Chapter VI of the Indian Penal Code,

and against one person under Section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The Courts were not, however, asked to have recourse to the provisions of the Indian Press Act, 1910, the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, 1911, or the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908.

Courts of Original Jurisdiction.

55. The strength of the Magistracy rose from 553 to 555. The number of persons tried by District Magistrates increased from 255 to 343 and before Courts of Sessions from 470 to 624. These increases are accounted for by the increase in important crimes. The number of accused persons before Honorary and Special Magistrates rose from 17,603 in the previous year to 18,761, 18,500 being before Honorary Magistrates. The number of persons tried by Stipendiary Magistrates showed an increase in every district except Nagpur, Balaghat, Mandla, Bilaspur, Yeotmal and Akola. The percentage of cases disposed of by the various classes of Magistrates was—District Magistrates ·6, other Stipendiary Magistrates 70·5, Honorary Magistrates 28·1 and Special Magistrates ·8, as compared with ·5, 71·5, 28·0 and ·0 in the previous year. The number of cases tried summarily rose from 3,264 to 3,926 and the percentage on the total number of cases disposed of from 11·1 to 12·4. The percentage of persons convicted to the total number of persons whose cases were disposed of increased from 38·1 to 39·2. The number of persons released on probation of good conduct under Section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code rose from 615 in the previous year to 653 in the year under review.

The despatch of business.

56. The number of cases disposed of during the year was 31,906 as compared with 29,465 in 1912, the average duration in all Courts being 18·9 days as against 17·7 in 1912. In the Central Provinces the average duration of Police cases rose from 18·9 to 19·9 days, the figure at which it stood in 1911. In Berar there was a big rise in the average duration of such cases from 16·9 days to 21. The average duration of complaint cases was somewhat higher both in the Central Provinces and Berar. The general reason for the longer durations was the increase in the number of cases.

Sessions Courts.

57. The number of cases disposed of by Sessions Courts was 258 against 240, the increase being confined to the Nagpur, Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Courts and being particularly marked in the last. The percentage of convictions was 58·4 against 59·3, and the average duration 53·6 compared with 52·0, in the previous year.

Appellate and Revisional Jurisdiction.

58. The number of convicted persons whose appeals were disposed of by the Judicial Commissioner's Court rose from 257 to 388. In 89·5 per cent the finding, and in 75·8 per cent both the finding and sentence, of the lower Court were confirmed. The number of persons whose cases were dealt with in revision was 736 against 479 in the previous year. As regards 566 persons no action was taken; as regards 18 the sentence was enhanced; as regards 149 the sentence was reduced or set aside; and the retrial of 3 persons was ordered. Benches of two Judges disposed of 55 references for confirmation of death sentences as against 53 in the previous year. In one case the Judges disagreed as to the guilt of the accused and the proceedings were submitted to a third Judge who gave his opinion in favour of conviction. The number of persons whose appeals were before Sessions Courts rose from 1,736 to 2,215, and those before Magistrates increased from 3,000 to 3,524. The average duration in Sessions Courts rose from 19·4 to 22·5. The average duration in Magistrates' Courts increased from 18·3 days to 19·6 in the Central Provinces, but fell from 20 to 19·3 in Berar. The percentage of cases in which the original sentences were upheld was 72·3 in Sessions Courts and 61·3 in District Courts against 66·2 and 59·9, respectively, in the previous year. The appeals of 2,027 persons were dismissed summarily as against 1,505 in the previous year. The Local Government appealed against the acquittal of 11 persons implicated in 9 cases. Six cases affecting 7 persons were decided during the year. In one case the appeal was withdrawn; in one it was dismissed; in one a retrial was ordered and resulted in a conviction for murder with a sentence of transportation for life which was upheld on appeal; and in the remaining three cases the acquittals were set aside and the accused convicted. In two of the three cases decided after the close of the year the acquittals were set aside and the accused convicted, while in the third case the two accused died and the appeal abated.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Punishments.

59. The percentage of persons sentenced to imprisonment, with or without other punishment, to fine only and to whipping only were 23·6, 73·2 and 3·2 as compared with 21·2, 76·0 and 2·8 in 1912. The percentage of whippings to sentences in cases in which whipping might have been inflicted rose from 19·9 to 23·3. The number of persons sentenced to death rose from 32 to 38 and to transportation from 55 to 107, Jubbulpore accounting for the largest portion of this increase. The number of persons sentenced to imprisonment for 15 days and under fell from 109 to 101. The number of previously convicted offenders sentenced again rose from 567 to 721, these figures showing a rise for the first time since 1908. Offenders who have only one previous conviction against them accounted for the greater portion of the increase, while the figures for those who had more than two previous convictions showed an actual fall. The number of persons sentenced to fine rose from 14,526 to 15,399 and the total of fines imposed from Rs. 1,91,869 to Rs. 2,51,044, while the percentage of realisations declined from 94·5 to 93·3. The amount struck off as unrealisable was Rs. 6,797, which was less by Rs. 9 than the figure of the preceding year, in spite of the expansion in the total imposed. The balance outstanding at the end of the year was Rs. 23,298, and the increase over the previous year's figure of Rs. 16,604 is accounted for by fines imposed just before the end of the year. The number of boys sent to the Reformatory School increased from 12 to 14.

PRISONS

5—PRISONS

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1913, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

General.

60. There was no change in the number or classification of Jails, which consist of one Subsidiary, 18 District and three Central Jails. The replacement of the Sironcha Subsidiary Jail by a Magisterial lock-up was not effected owing to delay in the construction of the new building. Orders were issued for the reduction of the District Jails of Wardha and Damoh to the status of Subsidiary Jails, but the change was not effected during the year under review. The conversion of the adolescent Jail at Narsinghpur into a modified Borstal Institution, which was sanctioned during the year, marked an important advance in prison reform. Adolescent convicts are to be trained in agriculture and horticulture, but the details of the experiment were not completely worked out by the end of the year.

Jail population.

61. The number of prisoners admitted to Jail rose from 8,688 in 1912 to 10,203 and the daily average strength of the Jail population from 3,132 to 3,584. The increase was most marked in the number of admissions to Central Jails. The increase from 682 to 772 in the number of previous convicts re-admitted to Jail was disappointing after the continuous fall of recent years, but it is hoped that the successful, though modest, work of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society at Raipur will stimulate similar efforts elsewhere and that these endeavours to assist convicts on their release, together with the penal nature of the discipline inside the Jail walls, may furnish a partial solution of the difficult problem of the reclamation of the habitual criminal. Only 12 juveniles under 16 years of age, of whom one was a female, were committed to Jail as compared with 16 in the previous year. The large increase in the total number of admissions was partly due to the capture of several big gangs of criminals and to exceptional activity in the administration of the Excise and Railway Acts in some districts.

Jail discipline.

62. There were 5 escapes during the year as compared with 4 in 1912; all were due to negligence in supervision outside the Jail walls. Only one of the fugitives, however, remained at large at the end of the year and four other attempts to escape were frustrated by the vigilance of the warders in charge. In spite of the large increase in the Jail population, the number of Jail offences fell from 14,692 to 13,706 and the number of corporal punishments decreased from 49 to 27. No assault of a serious nature occurred in any of the Jails, and the number of cases in which it was found necessary to have recourse to the Criminal Courts for punishment of Jail offenders was only 16 as compared with 21 in the previous year. These facts and figures are sufficient to show that Jail Superintendents were generally successful in maintaining a good state of discipline.

63. The health of prisoners was even better than in the previous year. The daily average of sick was 41 and the ratio of deaths per mille of the daily average strength was 13·39: both these figures are the lowest for the last nine years. The epidemic of dysentery in the Raipur Central Jail was kept well under control: it still accounted for 60 admissions to hospital, but only one of these cases ended fatally. The steady fall in the number of cases of malarial fever, which this year reached the low figure of 92, may largely be attributed to quinine prophylaxis. **Health.**

64. There was no change in the industries carried on in Jails. At the Nagpur Central Jail both the Quinine-factory and the Press increased their output, while paper-making also showed a rapid development which will receive a further impetus from the recent orders for the supply of Jail-made covers to Government Offices throughout the Province. The Jubbulpore Central Jail fulfilled its contracts for the supply of textile goods to the Supply and Transport Department efficiently and economically. The rise of Rs. 38,500 in the cash profits was particularly welcome as a set-off against the increase in expenditure, and, while almost all Jails contributed to this satisfactory result, the chief credit was due to the Jubbulpore Central Jail, where the cash earnings rose by nearly Rs. 29,500. The daily average number of convicts employed in the Jails was approximately 3,006. Of this number 278 were employed as prison officers, 362 as prison servants, 302 in Jail gardens, 353 in preparing articles for Jail use and 187 in repairing and making additions and alterations to Jail buildings, while 1,471 were available for work in Jail factories. The value of the garden produce was Rs. 13,803, and the estimated value of the labour of convicts employed on structural repairs was Rs. 1,999. **Jail Industries.**

65. The total expenditure incurred in guarding and maintaining prisoners during the year was Rs. 3,93,631 as compared with Rs. 3,31,197 in 1912. This increase of nearly Rs. 62,500 is largely accounted for by the rise of Rs. 25,834 in the expenditure under the head of "Dietary charges" owing to the greater number of admissions and the rise of Rs. 28,196 under the head of "Establishment" on account of the introduction of the higher scale of pay of warders and jailors and the consequent increments earned during the year. The total cost of maintenance per head of prison population showed a further advance from Rs. 105-11-6 to Rs. 109-12-10. On the other hand, as a result of the expansion in the profits of Jail industries, the net cost to Government increased by little more than Rs. 24,000 and the net cost per head of population showed an actual fall from Rs. 95-3-0 to Rs. 89-15-0. The average profit per head of the number sentenced to labour was Rs. 14-9-2 as compared with Rs. 11-5-9 in 1912, while the average cash profit per head was Rs. 22-5-0 as against Rs. 9-5-7. The savings effected to Government by the employment of prison labour amounted to Rs. 87,787 as compared with Rs. 80,382 in 1912. **Cost of Jail Administration.**

6—CIVIL JUSTICE

CIVIL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1913, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

66. The increase in the work of the Judicial Commissioner's Court necessitated the temporary appointment of a fourth Judge. A Subordinate Judge was substituted for a Munsiff at Harda. The abolition of the Court of the Second Munsiff at Bilaspur rendered it possible to post a Munsiff to Bhandara to relieve the congestion of the file in that district, but this Court was finally closed before the end of the year and from that date the cadre of Munsiffs remained one short of the sanctioned strength. The Additional Munsiff posted to Wardha to clear off arrears completed his task and his Court was transferred to Amraoti, while a similar Court at Yeotmal was abolished at the end of the year. One of the Akola Munsiffs' Courts was transferred to Akot, where a new Court-house was opened. Two members of the Indian Civil Service worked as Subordinate Judges for a portion of the year, one of them being posted subsequently to Narsinghpur as District Judge. The total number of suits showed little change, there being a slight increase from 100,080 in 1912 to 100,200. A rise of 941 (10 per cent) in suits for immoveable property was met by a fall of 556 (11 per cent) in mortgage suits. There was a general and fairly uniform fall in litigation all over the Provinces except at Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Nimar and West Berar. The heavy increase in the western part of the Province was due, perhaps, to the failure of **Tribunals and character of litigation.**

the monsoon in Western India in 1911. The total value of suits instituted rose from 181 lakhs to 246 lakhs. This is to a large extent due to the institution of a suit for partition valued at 40 lakhs of rupees in Jubbulpore. Apart from this suit, increasing prosperity caused a rise in the average value of the suits instituted, which reached the figure of Rs. 314 in Berar and Rs. 223 in the Central Provinces as compared with Rs. 292 and Rs. 147, respectively, in 1912.

Small Cause Court powers were conferred during the year on one Subordinate Judge and ten Munsiffs. In addition to this, the Small Cause Court powers already exercised by two District Judges, five Subordinate Judges and two Munsiffs were enhanced. Suits tried by this procedure increased in value from Rs. 32,42,444 to Rs. 38,79,544 and in number from 43,150 to 49,506, so that almost half the total number of suits and almost two-thirds of the suits for money or moveable property are now tried by this procedure. The percentage of suits disposed of by Munsiffs continued to show an apparent fall. There was little change in the percentage of suits disposed of by District Judges and Sub-Judges.

Pending files.

67. There was a further satisfactory reduction in the number of pending suits and in the number of suits pending over six months both in the Central Provinces and Berar, except in a few districts of the Central Provinces. The Central Provinces and Berar closed the year with 16,175 and 8,228 cases pending. The improvement in West Berar, where the pending file was reduced from 4,948 to 4,526 and suits pending over six months from 1,199 to 794, is noteworthy in view of the increased institutions in that district. The satisfactory condition to which pending files are being reduced is no doubt largely due to the recent extension of Small Cause Court powers. There was a substantial reduction in the average duration of contested and uncontested suits both in the Central Provinces and in Berar.

Execution of decrees.

68. The number of applications for execution before the Courts was 128,515 compared with 126,277 in the previous year. The Central Provinces were responsible for almost the whole of the increase, the figures for Berar being almost stationary. There was a marked improvement in disposals, and the total pending file fell from 23,327 to 21,336, cases pending over six months being 1,152 against 1,612. The total amount realised increased from Rs. 19,72,347 to Rs. 25,21,744. An increase in the number of applications dealing with immoveable property shows that the effect of the rush of institutions of mortgage suits in 1910 is still apparent in this last stage of the litigation.

Appellate litigation.

69. The rise in the institution of appeals before the Judicial Commissioner's Court was maintained, although the rate of increase declined; 1,321 appeals, regular and miscellaneous, were preferred as against 1,253 in 1912 and 1,040 in 1911. Of these 1,048 were disposed of, the pending files rising from 1,025 to 1,102, in spite of the fact that disposals increased from 993 to 1,244 as a result of the entertainment of a fourth Judge for a large part of the year. The number of applications for Civil revision increased from 396 to 479 during the year. Unless there is a considerable decline in the volume of appellate litigation, the post of fourth Judge will have to made permanent.

The total number of appeals, regular and miscellaneous, instituted and disposed of before Divisional Judges during the year was as follows:—

Instituted	... 556
Decided	... 472
Pending	... 269

as compared with 538, 468 and 185 in the previous year. The pending file in Nagpur, where the institutions had doubled in two years, had, in spite of good disposals by the presiding Judge, attained almost unmanageable proportions and after the close of the year some relief was given to him by the transfer of the Bhandara Civil district to the Chhattisgarh Division. The average duration of regular appeals for the whole Province increased from 117·0 days to 142·1. Institutions in District Judges' Courts, inclusive of the Courts of Sub-Judges gazetted with the powers of a District Judge, fell from 4,057 to 3,967 in the Central Provinces. In the Central Provinces the year closed with 689 pending files as compared with 893 at the end of 1912 owing to the fact that 4,171 appeals were disposed of against 3,978. The pending file in Raipur was reduced to a satisfactory level, the Sub-Judge there having been given appellate powers.

Institutions in Berar numbered 1,784 as against 1,674 in the previous year, but owing to better disposals there were only 940 appeals awaiting disposal against 1,001 at the end of 1912. The average duration of both regular and miscellaneous appeals showed an increase.

Miscellaneous.

70. For the first time since the present cadre was introduced, all three District Judgeships in the Central Provinces, as well as the one post of Additional District and Sessions Judge in Berar reserved for the Indian Civil Service, were held by members of that service. No changes occurred in the personnel of District Judges. One Sub-Judge retired in December and two Munsiffs left the Department, one being transferred to the Executive and the other reverting to the Education Department. The two remaining joint Nazarats in Betul and Narsinghpur were abolished during the year, and separate Judicial Nazarats now exist at the head-quarters of each district. One post of Naib-Nazir was abolished towards the close of the year. The increase of the pay of the process-serving staff has raised the standard of work. Cases of criminal breach of trust and similar offences were not infrequent, but in most cases the offenders were brought to book. It was the general practice to take security from the process-serving staff, and Government was thus safeguarded against loss. The revision of the copying establishment appears to have resulted well. Orders were issued directing that head copyists should furnish security, the amount of which was fixed tentatively. The new Court-houses at Balaghat, Raipur, Chhindwara and Jubbulpore were completed during the year. The Munsiffi at Katol was also finished, and that at Pusad was ready for occupation at the close of the year.

7—REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION

[Report on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces and Berar during the calendar years 1911, 1912 and 1913, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Registration.

71. In spite of the abrupt and early cessation of the monsoon, agricultural conditions were generally favourable throughout the Central Provinces and Berar during the greater part of the year. It is not, therefore, surprising to find that the total number of registrations rose from 89,552 in 1912 to 92,650 in 1913. This increase of 3·5 per cent was spread over the total registrations in all classes of documents except "Wills" and "Authorities to adopt." Compulsory registrations affecting immoveable property increased from 79,900 to 82,815, while optional registrations remained almost stationary. Registrations affecting moveable property rose from 6,097 to 6,312. The number of sale-deeds affecting proprietary rights in land increased from 1,061 to 1,153, while the number of villages or shares of villages included in these transactions was 1,369 as compared with 1,222 in the preceding year. The proportion of sales in favour of agriculturists showed a satisfactory increase from 70 per cent to nearly 74 per cent. Mortgages of villages and shares numbered 1,801 as against 1,791 ; these were mostly in favour of non-agriculturists, as usual, but the proportion fell from 62 per cent to 60 per cent. Similarly, the figures relating to sales and mortgages of land by plot-proprietors and tenants indicate that the proportion of these transactions in favour of agriculturists is gradually increasing. With the increase in the volume of registration work the income of the Department rose by Rs. 20,013 from Rs. 3,75,880 in 1912 to Rs. 3,95,893 in 1913. Berar alone accounted for Rs. 13,220 of the increase. On the other hand, the expenditure fell from Rs. 1,33,447 to Rs. 1,29,678. The system of recording thumb impressions proved successful and in one instance led to the detection of a case of forgery in connection with a document brought to a Sub-Registrar for registration. The inspection work, both of officers of the Department and Revenue officers, was in general sufficient and satisfactory.

8—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

[Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1913-14, and Part VIII of the Statistics of British India.]

Number and constitution of Municipalities.

72. There was no change during the year in the number of Municipalities in the Central Provinces. Changes in the personnel of the Committees were few : three members were added to the Jubbulpore Municipal Committee, of whom two were returned by a constituency composed of persons assessed to an annual sum of not less than Rs. 50 in respect of octroi and the third by a constituency composed of Barristers-at-Law and Graduates or Licentiates

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

of Medicine and Surgery or of Engineering of any recognised University. All Municipal Committees, except those of Balaghat, Sihora and Pachmarhi, held at least the prescribed minimum number of meetings. Attendance at the meetings was generally satisfactory, especially in the Nagpur and Nerbudda Divisions.

Income.

73. The total income of all Municipalities, excluding extraordinary receipts and debt, was Rs. 31,62,928 as compared with Rs. 32,26,353 in the preceding year, but if Government contributions be excluded, the real income from Municipal sources was Rs. 28,76,351 against Rs. 26,57,414, an increase of 8 per cent. Octroi, which was levied in 23 out of 43 Municipalities in the Central Provinces, but not in Berar, yielded Rs. 9,67,991 as compared with Rs. 9,89,534: the decrease was partly due to a falling off of receipts from piece-goods and textiles owing to the slackness of the marriage season, while the crop failure in the north of the Province and the financial crisis brought on by the failure of banks restricted the buying capacity of the people and affected the credit of merchants. The income from taxes other than octroi showed an increase of Rs. 86,000, about half of which appeared under the heads "Tax on registration of sales of cattle" and "Tax on animals and vehicles." Collections under Special Acts, amounting to Rs. 1,24,000, showed an increase of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the previous year's figure, while revenue derived from Municipal property and powers apart from taxation increased from Rs. 5,10,000 to Rs. 5,61,000. Government contributions amounted to Rs. 2,86,577 and formed about 10 per cent of the total income. Over $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs of rupees out of this amount represented grants to Municipalities for sanitary purposes and included a grant of one lakh to the Nagpur Municipality for a drainage project. Grants for educational purposes amounted to Rs. 64,405 against Rs. 1,00,529 in the preceding year. The incidence of taxation per head of population calculated on the basis of the new census fell in the Central Provinces at Rs. 2-2-7 as compared with Rs. 2-2-2 in 1912-13 and in Berar at Rs. 1-8-7 as compared with Rs. 1-6-2.

Expenditure.

74. The opening balance of all Municipalities at the beginning of the year was Rs. 12,74,164. Receipts amounted to Rs. 36,86,244 and the total available for expenditure was, therefore, Rs. 49,60,408. Disbursements totalled Rs. 35,86,181, leaving a closing balance at the end of the year of Rs. 13,74,227. All Municipalities had full programmes of work and most of the large balances were accumulated for expenditure on schemes already formulated. Excluding debt and extraordinary expenditure, the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 31,38,807 as compared with Rs. 30,50,762 in 1912-13. The capital outlay on water-supply was Rs. 92,665 against Rs. 2,06,323, but the figure for 1912-13 was swollen by large sums spent in supplementing ordinary sources of supply which proved inadequate on account of the short rainfall. The expenditure on drainage amounted to Rs. 3,77,933 against Rs. 3,87,585 in the previous year. A sum of over three lakhs of rupees was spent on the Nagpur drainage scheme, while the Wardha drainage works were completed. Conservancy and sanitation accounted for an outlay of Rs. 5,89,058: almost all Municipalities contributed to this increase of nearly three-quarters of a lakh over the previous year's figure. Improvement of roads, wells, slaughter-houses and meat markets and other important details of convenience and sanitation absorbed the greater part of this expenditure, but attempts were also made to secure safety, ventilation and space by a revision of the building by-laws in many of the larger towns, while some Municipalities devoted attention to the question of opening up congested areas. The fall from Rs. 3,51,792 to Rs. 3,37,398 in the expenditure on public instruction was due to a decrease in the Government contribution: the outlay of Municipalities from their own resources rose from Rs. 2,51,263 to Rs. 2,72,993. Continued progress was made in the development of the organisation of Primary and Middle School education, noteworthy features of the year's work being the establishment of a High School at Burhanpur and of Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools at Khandwa and Sausar and a gradual improvement in the pay and prospects of the teaching staff.

Loans.

75. At the close of the year 17 Municipalities were indebted to Government on account of loans granted to them. During the year 1913-14 loans amounting to Rs. 2,55,000 were advanced by Government. The Nagpur Municipality took one lakh of rupees as the fourth instalment of the loan towards the drainage

scheme and Wardha Municipality borrowed Rs. 65,000 for a similar purpose, while the Municipalities of Jubbulpore and Chhindwara borrowed Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 20,000, respectively, to meet the cost of improvements in their towns. The total balance outstanding at the close of the year on account of loans was Rs. 22,62,520 against Rs. 21,77,217 in the preceding year. The finances of all Municipalities which had taken loans from Government were in a satisfactory condition.

9—DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

[Resolution on the working of the District Councils and Local Boards of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1913-14, and Part VIII of the Statistics of British India.]

Number, constitution, meetings and attendance.

76. Changes in the constitution of District Councils and Local Boards were few and were confined to the Jubbulpore Division. The creation of a Local Board for the newly formed Patan Tahsil in the Jubbulpore District involved a curtailment of the area of the Jubbulpore Local Board and a reduction in the number of its members, while the Jubbulpore District Council was increased by the addition of one nominated and two elected members. All District Councils and District Boards held the prescribed number of meetings, while among Local Boards there was only one defaulter. On the other hand, 51 meetings in the Central Provinces and 12 in Berar had to break up for want of a quorum. The average percentage of members present at each meeting rose from 48 in 1912-13 to 50 in 1913-14.

Income and Expenditure.

77. Income and expenditure, excluding account heads, exhibited a rise of Rs. 4,06,000 and Rs. 3,97,000, respectively, over the figures of the preceding year. Government contributions for Education and Civil Works exceeded those of the preceding year by two and a half lakhs of rupees, and the other most noticeable increases in income were 11 per cent under "Cattle-pounds" and 39 per cent under "Other Contributions for Civil Works." Closing balances increased in all but five districts, but the surpluses were due not so much to slackness on the part of Local Bodies as to excess of receipts over estimated income and the fact that in some parts of the Province the organisation of the engineering staff under the Divisional Local Fund Engineer scheme was not in complete working order throughout the year. The demands of education, as usual, absorbed a large proportion of District Council funds, the percentage of total income expended on public instruction falling at 31 in the Central Provinces and 30 in Berar. The total expenditure on education was Rs. 6,79,000 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 3,47,000 in Berar, Government contributions amounting to Rs. 4,72,000 and Rs. 1,22,000. Particular attention was, as usual, paid to Primary education: 183 new Primary Schools were opened in the Central Provinces and 102 in Berar. District Funds in the Central Provinces and Berar subsidised 151 dispensaries at a cost of Rs. 1,03,588: new dispensaries were opened in the Jubbulpore, Damoh and Mandla districts. Rs. 71,803 was spent on vaccination and Rs. 27,244 on sanitation and conservancy. In addition, a definite scheme for the improvement of water-supply in villages was prepared, and most districts utilised their shares of the grants amounting to Rs. 60,000 made for this purpose. The total expenditure on Civil works amounted to Rs. 9,24,690 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 4,61,933 in Berar as compared with Rs. 7,04,425 and Rs. 3,95,272 in the preceding year. About one-third of this total was spent on communications, the expenditure under this head increasing by 53 per cent in the Central Provinces and by 14 per cent in Berar. The Divisional Local Fund Engineer scheme was in operation throughout the Province, though not for the whole year in all Divisions, and in most Divisions the system was reported to have secured increased efficiency and expedition in the design and execution of public works. The amount spent on arboriculture was Rs. 14,674 in the Central Provinces as compared with Rs. 14,166 in 1912-13 and Rs. 12,161 in Berar against Rs. 13,440. The number of cattle-pounds showed a rise from 1,258 to 1,333: 61 new pounds were opened in the Central Provinces and 14 in Berar. Both income and expenditure increased, the former by 11 per cent and the latter by 12 per cent. All charges on account of Veterinary Dispensaries, except the pay of Veterinary Assistants, continued to be met from District Funds.

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING)

10—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING)

The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles.

78. The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles, were the only two Volunteer Corps in the Central Provinces. The enrolled strength of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles continued to rise and in 1913-14 numbered 1,326, including 30 Commissioned Officers, as compared with 1,309 in 1912-13. Of this number 1,212 were classed as extra-efficient, 104 as efficient and 10 as non-efficient, while marksmen numbered 294 as compared with 245 in the preceding year. There were 79 Reservists, all of whom were efficient. Operations in conjunction with the Kamptee Garrison were arranged on two occasions during the year, and four teams of the Volunteers had an opportunity of carrying out a field practice in shell-firing. A noteworthy feature of the year's work was the record attendance at the annual Camp-of-Exercise which was held at Nagpur from the 24th to the 30th January 1914. The average attendance was 707 as compared with 564 in the previous year, and numbers actually living in camp were 619 of all ranks. The General Officer Commanding, Jubbulpore Brigade, inspected the Corps during the Camp-of-Exercise and was favourably impressed with the work done. The financial position of the Corps was satisfactory.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Volunteer Rifles.

79. The total enrolled strength of the 2nd Battalion of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Corps, which has its head-quarters at Nagpur, was 573 on 31st March 1914 as compared with 558 in the preceding year. Of this number 311, including 14 officers, were employed in the Central Provinces. 269 were classed as extra-efficient, 27 as efficient and 15 as non-efficient, while marksmen numbered 75. The financial position of the Corps was satisfactory. During the year field days were held on every possible opportunity and Volunteers from all parts of the line took part. Operations were carried out in the vicinity of Kharagpur and Purlia in conjunction with neighbouring Volunteer units, and during the Camp-of-Exercise at Midnapur the Battalion was exercised with the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers.

CHAPTER IV

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

1—AGRICULTURE

[Reports on the working of the Department of Agriculture and on the Agricultural Stations of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th June 1914.]

Agriculture.

80. Of the two new posts sanctioned on the superior expert staff, one was filled up at the beginning of the year and the other towards its close. The creation of an independent charge for the Berar cotton country was also under consideration in order to afford relief to the Deputy Director in charge of the Southern Circle and to make it possible to pay greater attention to the development of the comparatively backward Chhattisgarh country. Pending the recruitment of the supervising staff to full strength, it was found necessary to call a halt in the expansion of the activities of the Department, and this decision was confirmed by the unfavourable character of the season and by several unavoidable changes in the office of Director. Accordingly, the work of the Department during the year consisted more in the consolidation of previous advances than in the opening up of new lines of progress.

Agricultural education.

81. The difficult and important problem of agricultural education received due attention during the year. The main difficulty is to provide a curriculum at the Agricultural College which can at the same time be assimilated by the would-be practical farmer, and yet be sufficiently scientific for the more advanced and intellectual student. The importance of the educational system at the College to the future success of the Department is so great that a scheme was under consideration for a differentiation between the training of the lower subordinate cadre, for which the teaching should be confined to practical agriculture, and that of the upper subordinate service, for which more scientific instruction would be necessary. It was decided, however, to postpone the introduction of this new scheme until the success or failure of the recently revised curriculum had been tested by actual results. In spite of the extra work thrown upon the Principal of the College by his officiating in leave vacancies in addition to his own duties and by the frequent absences of members of the teaching staff on observation tours which were necessitated by the progress of the Department, the College had a successful year and the standard of education was at least fully maintained.

The publication and issue of the Agricultural and Co-operative Gazette continued throughout the year. The decrease in circulation from 6,249 to 5,922 copies was mainly due to the elimination of persistent defaulters from the list of subscribers. Weekly cotton returns were also compiled and circulated for general information.

Agricultural enquiry and demonstration.

82. The results obtained on the various research and experimental farms were affected by unseasonable climatic conditions. The rice crop on the Raipur farm was a poor one, and the experiments in transplantation by single seedlings proved that this method is not so successful as that of transplantation by bunches in a year of short rainfall. The rice crop on the Tharsa farm was also a failure, and wheat on the Adhartal farm suffered severely on account of unfavourable conditions. On the other hand, the success of the sugarcane and irrigated cotton experiments on the new farm at Sindewahi was most encouraging, and good results were obtained in kharif cultivation at Powarkhera and in growing irrigated wheat after ground-nut at Tharsa. The Akola farm continued to command a high price for its rosea cotton seed and, though Government farms are not managed with a view to pecuniary profit, was able to show a profit on the year's working. On other farms a considerable advance was made in the improvement and levelling of the ground and in the provision of increased facilities for irrigation, and, even where the crops failed to give a good outturn, there were valuable lessons to be learned from experiments conducted under adverse conditions.

The principal lines of demonstration dealt with were cotton, transplanted rice, sugarcane and wheat. The main feature of demonstration work in Berar was the distribution of rosea cotton seed through private seed-farms organised on a co-operative basis. At the close of the year there were 400 farms of this type and the total outturn was nearly 2 million pounds of rosea seed, sufficient to sow 200,000 acres. There were similar seed-farms for cotton and wheat in the Northern Circle, but owing to the unfavourable character of the season in the north of the Province these farms received a severe set-back. In the Chhattisgarh Division the area under transplanted rice rose from 16,000 to 30,194 acres, and where the transplantation was made in areas protected by Government works or large village tanks, the cultivators made a large profit. Unfortunately, some members of the Land Records staff who were engaged in pushing this form of cultivation allowed their zeal to outrun their discretion, and where the seedlings were transplanted to insufficiently protected areas, they fared badly from lack of water. Cane cultivation received a set-back owing to lack of water in Government irrigation tanks, which were almost exhausted by the demands of the rice crops, and, in the Nagpur Division, owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding. A party of cultivators from the backward Chhattisgarh tract was taken to inspect rice-growing villages in Bhandara and Balaghat, and this form of demonstration met with its usual success.

There was again a serious attack of tick-fever among the cattle at the Telinkheri farm which caused considerable losses, but the Powarkhera cattle-breeding farm had another successful year. The experiment of encouraging private cattle-farms continued, and two in the Raipur district were registered as Co-operative Societies. These, together with the Government farm at Chandkhuri, should prove of value, not only in matters of co-operation and improvement in the breed of cattle, but also as centres for demonstrating the uses to which the unpromising areas of the fuel and fodder reserves of Chhattisgarh can successfully be put. The Telinkheri Dairy, a combination consisting of the Agriculture Department, a contractor and a society of Gaolis registered under the Co-operative Societies Act, continued to furnish a good supply of milk at a very reasonable price, while the experimental dairy attached to the Agricultural College supplied dairy products at a profit, in spite of its modest size.

District Associations

83. The District Agricultural Associations in a number of districts again did useful work. In pursuance of the policy of maintaining and strengthening the connection between the Department of Agriculture and the Co-operative Credit movement, the co-operative organisation was used, where possible, as the medium for keeping in touch with the cultivating classes. In the wealthy Berar districts, where the comparative cheapness of money renders Credit Societies less attractive, Agricultural Unions have been established, while in the more backward districts of the Central Provinces, where the co-operative movement has not yet made sufficient progress, the Department worked through sub-associations of the District Agricultural Associations.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

1 (*a*)—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1913-14.]

Co-operative Societies.

84. The agricultural and financial conditions of the year 1913-14 were distinctly unfavourable: the early cessation of the monsoon resulted in poor harvests in the north of the Province and the financial crisis in the Swadeshi banking world caused a sudden restriction of commercial credit and a disturbance of public confidence in ordinary banking concerns. In spite of these disturbing factors, however, the co-operative movement made steady progress. The rejection of 16 per cent of the applications received shows that a careful discrimination was exercised in the registration of new societies, and, in accordance with the principle of weeding out lifeless societies, the certificates of 62 societies were cancelled. The real progress of the movement is indicated by the fact that, in spite of the cautious policy which was pursued, the number of societies of all kinds increased from 1,449 to 2,213, the membership from 28,396 to 42,222 and the working capital from 35 to 65 lakhs of rupees. Owing to the rapid progress which had been made, and which was expected to continue, a scheme was being worked out for the appointment of Assistant Registrars to work under the control

of the Registrar in definite areas of the Province. During the year's working no losses were incurred and the financial record of the co-operative movement remained unstained.

Working of Central Societies, Provincial and Central Banks.

85. The Provincial Co-operative Bank, which is a "Book Bank" pure and simple, and handles no cash, had a successful year's working. The turnover was nearly 55 lakhs of rupees as compared with nearly 23 lakhs in the previous fifteen months, and at the end of June 1914 the working capital was over 12 lakhs of rupees as compared with nearly 6 lakhs at the corresponding period in 1913. Recoveries of loans from Central Banks were effected punctually and in full and amounted during the year to Rs. 5,13,580. After the close of the year a dividend of 4 per cent was declared. The Union of Co-operative Banks, the agency by means of which the salaried non-official staff for audit and supervision is provided and controlled, continued to take a prominent part in helping non-official co-operators to reach the goal of independent self-help. The steady accumulation of shares in the Central Banks and the building up of a Famine Insurance Fund were two of the most admirable features of the constitution of this unusual type of society. The number of Central Banks increased from 25 to 28, owing to the registration of new Banks at Chhindwara, at Warora in the Chanda district and at Mehkar in the Buldana district. The working capital of Central Banks rose from Rs. 14,25,842 to Rs. 25,86,913; the only disappointing feature was that the increase of share capital did not keep pace with the expansion of the movement in other directions, and the Central Banks had to be warned of the danger of placing too great a reliance on borrowed capital. The control and management of societies was almost entirely in the hands of the non-official Managers and Directors, subject only to the general guidance and supervision of the Registrar. A careful examination of the business methods employed brought to light some mistakes: some Central Banks paid too little attention to the local inspection of their constituent societies; others incurred a dangerous and unnecessary liability by making their deposits repayable on a single date to facilitate the keeping of accounts; others, again, fixed impossible dates for the repayment of advances without due consideration of the purpose for which the loans were taken. On the whole, however, business was transacted on sound lines, and convincing testimony to the efficiency of control is to be found in the facts that, in spite of adverse conditions, the Central Banks were able to collect considerably more than the actual amount due for recovery, that reserve funds doubled, and that savings deposits by the members of the small village societies exhibited a substantial increase.

Agricultural Unions for production and sale.

86. Much valuable work was done by Agricultural Societies and Seed Unions in the way of production and distribution of pure seed and sales of agricultural implements. In Berar the four registered Cotton Unions sold no less than 207,381 lbs. of pure rosea seed, and were able to make a substantial contribution towards the expansion of the area under this prolific variety of cotton. In the north of the Province the work of the Wheat Unions in the Jubbulpore district was hampered by the abrupt cessation of the rains, but the importation of Rs. 12,000 worth of specially selected wheat seed from the Hoshangabad district by the Sihora Central Bank on behalf of its societies, and the participation of the Hoshangabad Central Bank in this work, were indications of genuine co-operative progress. Satisfactory arrangements were made for the sale of agricultural implements and spare parts through the agency of Central Banks: the experts of the Agriculture Department design implements specially suited for local requirements, a Calcutta firm arranges for their manufacture, and Central Banks, while undertaking no risks in the matter,, provide the channel by means of which this expert service is placed at the disposal of the cultivator.

Agricultural Societies, Unlimited.

87. The number of rural credit societies with unlimited liability rose from 1,360 to 2,083, the membership from 22,997 to 34,242 and the working capital from Rs. 13,79,515 to Rs. 25,62,124. Savings deposits by members increased from Rs. 57,425 to Rs. 80,694, while the societies themselves owned 8 per cent of their working capital in the shape of reserve funds, deposits by members and shares in Central Banks. No fewer than 1,667 of the 2,083 societies were enrolled in membership of the Central Banks under which they worked.

Non-agricultural Societies; Credit, Limited.

88. There was no increase during the year in the number of non-agricultural societies with limited liability, and of the six societies of this type in existence two were in liquidation at the close of the year. The original organisation of these two societies was faulty in that it united in membership people with no common interests and very little knowledge of one another, but it is satisfactory to note that no losses will be incurred in liquidation. The Nagpur Government Press Society continued to make good progress and was able to reduce its rate of interest to $9\frac{3}{8}$ per cent, and where exceptionally good security was forthcoming, to 6 per cent. The Society had no bad debts, as loans had been granted with great discretion, and advanced Rs. 11,844 in 143 loans during the year. The Urban Society at Hatta in the Balaghat district was also well managed, and it was suggested that the cattle insurance society organised in connection with it should be expanded so as to make the experiment a really substantial and valuable one.

Non-agricultural Societies; Credit, Unlimited.

89. The number of societies of the Raffeisen type composed of petty artisans and traders increased during the year from 43 to 81 and included 51 societies of weavers, five of dyers, two of goldsmiths, four of brass and copper workers, six of basket-makers, two of potters, two of leather workers and eight of petty traders. Membership increased from 554 to 1,924 and working capital from Rs. 24,621 to Rs. 45,402. These societies generally worked well, but it was decided not to register any more societies of petty traders owing to the difficulty of securing co-operation between men of different pursuits and callings.

Resources.

90. The circumstances of the year 1913-14 were such as to put the Banks and Societies to a severe test, but Central Banks were able to meet their obligations to the Provincial Bank punctually and in full and to collect from their constituent societies considerably more than the actual amount due for recovery. No loan was taken from Government during the year, and the amount due to Government was reduced from Rs. 886 to Rs. 225.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

1 (*b*)—VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

[Report on the working of the Civil Veterinary Department, Central Provinces, for the year ending 31st March 1914.]

Veterinary Department.

91. The year under report, if it be regarded solely from the point of view of the statistics of disease and mortality among cattle, was a bad one. Anthrax, hæmorrhagic septicæmia and black quarter were among the more serious epidemics which claimed an increased number of victims, and rinderpest, against the ravages of which the activities of the Department are mainly directed, was more virulent even than in the previous year. Owing to an unfortunate accident to the machinery in the Imperial Laboratory at Muktesar, which is the only manufactory in India, the supply of anti-rinderpest serum was inadequate. The lack of serum seriously handicapped the efforts of the Department to localise outbreaks of disease by preventive inoculation, and the total number of deaths rose from 25,339 in the previous year to 33,369, while the number of inoculations fell from 214,304 to 94,690. It is satisfactory to notice, however, that among inoculated animals the rate of mortality was only ·17 per cent, and signs were not wanting that the value of this prophylactic is becoming more and more appreciated by the agricultural community. Attention was drawn to the dangers of rinderpest when contracted in forest grazing areas, and suggestions were under consideration for restricting the admission to Government Forest of cattle known to have come from infected areas.

92. During the year the expenditure incurred by the Veterinary Department rose by over a lakh of rupees, and there was a corresponding increase in its work not only along the old-established lines but also in opening up new branches of activity. The increase in expenditure was due mainly to an expansion of the building programme and to the enhanced cost of the subordinate establishment. With the aid of the liberal grant made from Imperial funds, a substantial attack was made on the long list of building deficiencies, and the programme of construction was in a fair way to completion. Progress was made in filling up the improved cadre of the Provincial Veterinary Establishment which was recently sanctioned by the Government of India; in view, however, of the rapid advance which the Department is making in the popular confidence and estimation, it was

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

considered advisable to exact a higher standard from candidates for employment and to fill up the cadre gradually from the better class of recruit that is now becoming available. The expansion of the work of the Department in recent years has been so great that adequate control could no longer be exercised by a single Superintendent; consequently, a second Superintendent was attached to the Provinces in December 1913. It was recognised that this appointment would have to be made permanent and that the question of creating a third post would have to be taken into consideration, as soon as Provincial resources could afford it. In general, the Department had a strenuous season's work; there was an increase in the number of cases treated by Veterinary Assistants both on tour and in dispensaries; although there was a considerable rise in the number of outbreaks of disease reported, the proportion of outbreaks left unattended fell from 43 to 27 per cent; and a most satisfactory beginning was made in research work. A notable achievement of the Department in recent years is the great improvement which it has effected in the management of cattle-shows; the prizes are now in all cases substantial and are arranged on lines designed to encourage useful types of animals, and there has been a substantial improvement in the filling of the classes and in the attendance of the public.

2—WEATHER AND CROPS

WEATHER AND CROPS

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1913-14, area and yield of certain principal crops in India, 1913-14, and Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I]

Rainfall.

93. The monsoon of 1913 broke rather late, but in the latter half of June good showers were received throughout the Province; a good beginning was made with the sowing of the kharif crops, and germination was satisfactory. During July and August there was no serious cessation in the activity of the monsoon, and the rainfall was generally sufficient and well-distributed: in the Satpura districts, however, it was rather too heavy, while in Chhattisgarh, and particularly in the Bilaspur district, it was somewhat deficient in quantity. At the end of August the agricultural situation was favourable; the sowing of the kharif crops and the transplantation of rice were practically completed all over the Province, and the preparation of land for the rabi sowings was in progress. In the first fortnight of September many districts received moderate to heavy rain, but in the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions and in the eastern portion of the Nerbudda Division the rainfall was deficient. The remaining portion of September was practically rainless, with the result that rice and millets suffered considerable damage in almost all districts, though cotton, til and juar did fairly well, except on the lightest soils. In the north of the Province the break continued throughout October, except for one beneficial storm which passed from Bhopal through the Narsinghpur and Saugor districts, and this prolonged drought sealed the fate of the kharif crops in all the districts of the Jubbulpore Division except Seoni. Elsewhere useful showers were received, which enabled the kharif crops to make a partial recovery and facilitated the sowing of the rabi crops. The winter rains were generally good; in particular, the showers which fell in the first fortnight of December revived the young rabi plants whose growth had been stunted by want of moisture in the seed-bed. Severe hailstorms in February and March did only local damage, but the heavy rain at harvest time in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions was more serious and caused considerable loss in such crops as were exposed on the threshing-floors. The general average rainfall of the Central Provinces was 43·09 inches for the twelve months as compared with a 46 years' average of 48·46 inches, the deficiency being most marked in the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions. In Berar the general average was 36·66 inches as compared with a 20 years' average of 31·19 inches.

Character of the season.

94. The kharif area of the Central Provinces increased by 211,486 acres, or 2 per cent. All districts except Saugor, Jubbulpore, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Betul and Seoni contributed to this increase. The net decrease in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions amounted to 15,180 and 26,684 acres, respectively, and was the result of the excellent rabi crops of 1912-13 which induced cultivators to leave a larger area for rabi in 1913-14. The expansion in the area under kharif in the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions and in Berar was due to seasonable rainfall at sowing time, and was in no sense an indication of

deterioration. The important cotton crop gave a better outturn than was originally anticipated, but the rice in Chhattisgarh was decidedly poor, and taking all crops together, the kharif harvest of the Provinces was estimated to be not more than 75 per cent of a normal crop. The rabi area of the Central Provinces and Berar decreased by 930,986 acres, or 11 per cent. The shrinkage was 454,695 acres in the Jubbulpore Division and 273,974 acres in the Chhattisgarh Division, but all Divisions contributed to the decrease which was due to scanty and unseasonable rainfall and, in part, to an ill-advised postponement of sowings owing to a prophecy of heavy rain at Divali. The rabi harvest was less than 75 per cent of the normal. The partial failure of the monsoon drove the cultivators to make use of all available sources of irrigation, but in many cases the sources failed, so that the increase in the area irrigated was not so great as might have been expected. However, the total irrigated area in the Central Provinces rose by 43,555 acres, or 5 per cent. Fodder was dear and scarce in the north of the Province in the latter half of the year owing to continued drought, but the supply of water continued to be generally sufficient. In Hoshangabad alone did the cattle suffer severely from want of food and water.

Yield of the autumn (kharif) crops.

95. *Rice.*—The area under rice in the Central Provinces declined by 9,834 acres. Climatic conditions were on the whole not seasonable, and in the Chhattisgarh and Wainganga districts, which are the principal rice-growing tracts in the Central Provinces, the rainfall was scanty and ill-distributed, and the outturn of both broadcast and transplanted rice fell below that of the previous year. In the Central Provinces as a whole, the outturn of broadcast and transplanted rice amounted to 55 and 68 per cent, respectively, as compared with 83 and 92 per cent in 1912-13.

Juar.—Juar, which is largely grown along with arhar (tur), occupied 1,501,105 acres in the Central Provinces, or 10,916 acres (1 per cent) more than the area sown in 1912-13. In Berar the area sown remained practically the same. Climatic conditions were fairly favourable in the important juar-growing tracts, except in the districts of Chhindwara, Wardha, Nagpur and Amraoti, where seasonal conditions were unfavourable and the outturn shrank compared with the previous year. For both the Central Provinces and Berar the yield was a little below that of the preceding year.

Cotton.—In the Central Provinces the area under cotton increased by 116,867 acres (8 per cent) and in Berar by 153,471 acres (5 per cent). Favourable climatic conditions at sowing time and the previous year's high prices apparently influenced the cultivators to sow cotton on an extensive scale. The sowings were generally successful and germination was satisfactory, but the continued drought after moderate rain in August and September considerably damaged the crop and stunted the growth of the plants. On the other hand, the outturn was better than was expected and exceeded the yield of the previous year.

Til.—Favourable conditions at sowing time, combined with the high prices obtainable for til, caused an expansion in area under this crop in almost two-thirds of the districts in the Central Provinces, where the area increased by 91,063 acres, or 13 per cent. In Berar the area sown decreased by 3,377 acres, or 4 per cent. Seasonal conditions were comparatively favourable in Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Akola, Amraoti, Yeotmal and in the districts of the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions, where the outturn ranged from 90 to 105 per cent of a normal crop. In the remaining districts the yield amounted to between 46 (Jubbulpore) and 85 (Mandla). For the Central Provinces and Berar together the outturn amounted to 82 against 78 in the preceding year.

Yield of the spring (rabi) crops.

Wheat.—The area under wheat and wheat-gram in the Central Provinces fell from 3,581,977 to 3,287,906 acres, a decrease of 294,071 acres, or 8 per cent. The meteorological conditions were not generally favourable for wheat. Only in Wardha, Nagpur, Chanda, Akola and Yeotmal, where the rainfall in the month of December greatly benefited the crops, and in the south of Saugor and north of Narsinghpur, where the conditions appear to have been good throughout, was an outturn equal to or little over a normal crop reaped. In the remaining districts the yield ranged from 47 to 92 in American notation. For the Central Provinces and Berar together three-fourths of a normal yield was

reaped. Gram suffered more than wheat from lack of rain, cloudy weather, insects and hail, except in the Wardha district, where a full crop was reaped.

Linseed.—The area placed under linseed in the Central Provinces and Berar fell by 526,691 and 34,938, or 37 and 35 per cent, respectively, the contraction being mainly due to the absence of moisture in the soil at sowing time, but partly also, in the districts of Amraoti, Buldana, Wardha and Hoshangabad, to the extended cultivation of kharif crops, and to the lowness of the linseed market. Scanty rainfall and cloudy weather caused defective germination, while hail, rain and insect pests damaged the crop and reduced the outturn all over the Province. Only Nagpur and Yeotmal reaped a normal crop. For the Central Provinces and Berar 80 per cent of a normal crop was harvested against 89 in 1912-13.

3—HORTICULTURE

HORTICULTURE

[Report on the management of the Provincial and District Gardens of the Central Provinces for the year 1913-14.]

Horticulture. Provincial Gardens.

96. The Maharajbagh Garden had the great advantage throughout the year of a permanent and reliable water-supply through the new main from the Telinkheri Reservoir, and the result was an almost immediate improvement in its appearance. Difficulty was still experienced in fruit growing owing to the water-logged and unsuitable nature of the soil, but an experimental fruit garden was started and it is hoped that this will largely remedy the deficiency. The number of plants and trees which were sold or given away was only 34,381 as against 44,650 in the previous year, but the figure for that year was swollen by the inclusion of a very large number of bamboo seedlings which were distributed all over the Province. The figures of the year represented a substantial advance on those of the year 1911-12. The fall of receipts from the sale of plants and vegetables was due to the special demand in the year 1912-13 on account of the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy to Nagpur. The general improvement in the appearance of the Telinkheri Garden was well maintained, and its popularity as a place of resort by the public, both Indian and European, continued to increase. Recent measures taken for the diminution of fever on the Pachmarhi plateau involved the abolition of the water-supply of the gardens, and the immediate result was a considerable shortage of hot-weather vegetables. In spite of this, however, the receipts from the Pachmarhi and Pagara Gardens increased from Rs. 6,091 in 1912-13 to Rs. 6,895 in 1913-14, while the expenditure only rose from Rs. 8,073 to Rs. 8,320. The profit on the Pagara Garden alone amounted to Rs. 2,475, and in view of the increased receipts which are expected, the question of placing a responsible manager in charge of this garden on the spot was under consideration.

District Gardens.

97. District gardens had, on the whole, a successful year. Receipts rose from Rs. 11,370 to Rs. 12,856, while the expenditure fell from Rs. 35,820 to Rs. 31,249. The two most serious difficulties with which the district gardens had to contend were, as usual, the inadequacy of the water-supply and the lack of suitable gardeners. A considerable expenditure of money would be required to deal adequately with these difficulties, and the requisite funds were not available. When the resources of the Department enable it to meet the cost, use will be made of power pumping plant to supplement the present water-supply, and the accommodation for the instruction of gardeners at the Maharajbagh Garden will be extended and the pay of head gardeners increased. The number of gardeners now trained is very limited, and they are taken up at once at a rate of pay which prevents the Superintendents of District Gardens from entering into the competition for their services.

Although the number of plants sold rose from 1,966 to 2,420, the total number of plants sold and given away fell from 7,457 to 6,636, and the need was indicated of greater efforts to encourage the distribution of plants and trees through the agency of the District Agricultural Associations.

4—FORESTS

FORESTS

[Reports of the Conservators of Forests of the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles, on the Forest Administration in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1913-14, with the review thereon and Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*, Finance and Revenue.]

Forest areas.

98. During the course of the year the total area of forest under the control of the Forest Department decreased by 888 square miles from 20,572 to 19,684 square

miles. The area of A Class forest in the Central Provinces remained almost unchanged, while that in Berar increased by 100 square miles as the result of transfers from other classes and afforestation of 3 square miles. The greater part of the total decrease was due to the disforestment of B-I forests in North and South Mandla and in Chhindwara. The percentage of Reserved Forests on the total area of the Central Provinces and Berar was 19·7. During the year 16·87 square miles were finally settled, while at the close of the year settlement operations were in progress in respect of an area of 34·16 square miles. The proceedings under the Land Acquisition Act for the acquisition of various plots in the Berar Circle were stopped on the discovery being made that such proceedings were not necessary to secure an undisputed title to land afforested under the procedure of the Indian Forest Act.

Demarcation and Survey.

99. The total outlay on demarcation work during the year was Rs. 25,748 as compared with Rs. 23,585 in the preceding year. 110 miles of new demarcation were carried out at a cost of Rs. 1,525, while at the close of the year there was a length of 184 miles remaining for demarcation, chiefly in the Melghat and Akola Divisions of the Berar Circle. Five-year schemes for the upkeep of boundaries were sanctioned for the North and South Mandla Divisions, while work on the schemes already in force was generally up to date.

Operations of Survey of India Parties were confined to the Berar Circle, in which parties No. 5 and No. 6 were working throughout the year. Party No. 5 was engaged in survey in the Betul and Amraoti Divisions, but no report had been received at the close of the year. The work carried out by Party No. 6 consisted of surveys on the 2-inch scale with plane-table boundary traverses on the 4-inch scale in the Akola and Buldana Divisions. In all three Circles survey work was continued through the agency of the local staff. The total expenditure on the constitution of State Forests was Rs. 43,631 as compared with Rs. 60,508 in the preceding year: the decrease was due to the fact that the previous year's figures were swollen by the inclusion of the purchase-money of two villages in the Hoshangabad Division.

Working-plans.

100. Regular working-plans were sanctioned in the course of the year for forests of the South Chanda (with the exception of the Sironcha Range), Buldana and Nimar Divisions, as well as a rough scheme for the working of the Khanat *sâl* forests of the South Mandla Division. The new scheme sanctioned for the Garhakota high forest in the Saugor Division was introduced, and the working-plan for the Bilaspur Division was submitted for orders. The figures at the close of the year showed that working-plans had been sanctioned for 10,784 square miles, that plans were in preparation for 6,406 square miles and that there was an area of 309 square miles for which plans were still required. The annual plans were generally worked up to in all Divisions.

Roads, buildings, tanks and wells.

101. The total expenditure on communications amounted to Rs. 1,37,628 as compared with Rs. 97,298 in the preceding year. Out of this sum, Rs. 1,04,046 was laid out on 657 miles of new construction work. The new work included 342 miles of regular cart roads at an average cost of Rs. 291 per mile, 44 miles of coupe and feeder roads at an average cost of Rs. 20 and 5 miles of inspection and other paths at an average cost of Rs. 43, while 266 miles were aligned at an average cost of Rs. 8. The sum of Rs. 33,582 was spent on repairs over a length of 4,784 miles. The total outlay on buildings was Rs. 90,667 against Rs. 85,777 in the preceding year. New works absorbed Rs. 59,739, and Rs. 30,100 was spent on repairs. No less than 89 per cent of the allotment for new works was laid out on the important work of constructing quarters for the subordinate establishment. The sum of Rs. 1,379 was spent on the repairs to the Balaghat Forest School buildings which are being carried out by the Public Works Department: at the close of the year the enlarged school was almost completed, as well as quarters for the Sub-Assistant Surgeon and Curator, the Additional Assistant Instructor and 25 students. The total expenditure on tanks, wells and other miscellaneous works fell from Rs. 36,202 to Rs. 28,347, of which Rs. 14,403 was spent on new works and Rs. 13,944 on repairs.

Forest offences.

102. The total number of forest offences reported during the year rose from 10,663 to 12,981. Every Circle and every head of offences contributed to this increase of 2,318, which was attributed partly to agricultural distress and partly to

greater vigilance on the part of the staff. The largest increase was under the head of unauthorised grazing. Of the total number of cases reported, 2 per cent were taken into Court, 85 per cent were compounded, 3 per cent remained undetected and 10 per cent were pending at the close of the year. The actual number of cases taken into Court was 279, and in 220 of these convictions were obtained. The number of cases compounded was 11,855 and the number in which compensation was actually recovered was 11,842: the average compensation realised per case and per person, respectively, amounted to Rs. 10-7-7 and Rs. 4-3-3 in the Northern Circle, Rs. 10-4-9 and Rs. 3-10-9 in the Berar Circle and Rs. 8-7-1 and Rs. 2-10-4 in the Southern Circle.

Protection from fire.

103. The area over which fire-protection was attempted fell from 11,558 square miles to 11,409 square miles, increases in the Northern and Berar Circles being more than counterbalanced by a decrease in the Southern Circle which was due partly to recalculation of areas and partly to the fact that certain tracts were burnt early instead of being fire-protected. As the result of a successful year's working 98 per cent of the area over which protection was attempted was successfully protected at a cost of Rs. 1,10,605. The most satisfactory results were obtained in the Melghat, Yeotmal and South Chanda Divisions, where the percentages of failure were ·03, ·09 and ·07, respectively. A great improvement was effected in the Raipur Division as the result of arrangements made in consultation with the Madras Government to prevent the spread of fires from the Raigarh Zamindaris. In the Saugor and Nimar Divisions protection was least successful, the percentages of failure amounting to 8 and 6, respectively. The average cost of protection per square mile exhibited a further decrease from Rs. 9-14-11 to Rs. 9-11-2.

Exploitation, sylviculture and management.

104. The area worked by systematic fellings rose from 154,166 acres in 1912-13 to 180,239 acres in 1913-14. In the Berar Circle there was a decrease in the area of coppice with standard fellings, but this was due to an alteration in classification and was balanced by an increase under improvement fellings. The important work of cutting back unpromising growth was carried out successfully and on a larger scale in all Circles. Unregulated fellings were made in all Divisions of the Northern Circle except Damoh and were generally restricted to *nistar* areas and forests in which the working-plan prescriptions were postponed. Similar fellings were permitted in excised areas and ryotwari wastes in the Mandla district and in C Class areas of Berar. The total number of animals grazed in Government Forest during the year was 3,956,717 against 4,236,758 in the preceding year. This decrease occurred in the Southern and Berar Circles, while the Northern Circle exhibited an actual increase. Various reasons were given for the decrease, but in Berar, where the fall in the number of cattle grazed was most marked, it was attributed to the disforestment of large areas of C Class forest in the preceding year, heavy mortality among cattle and good crops of fodder in malguzari areas. The value of the grazing at full rates rose by Rs. 5,059, but the revenue realised fell by Rs. 31,017 to Rs. 11,86,190 owing to the smaller number of cattle grazed. The grazing incidence per head of cattle varied in the Northern Circle from 2·1 to 4·82 acres and in the Southern Circle from 2·7 to 11·6. In Berar the minimum and maximum incidences in A Class forests were ·9 and 9·2 and in C Class forests ·05 and 1 acre. The average incidence for the Province as a whole was 2·7 as compared with 2·6 acres in the previous year. 2,641,741 animals grazed at full rates, 1,101,483 at privileged rates and 213,493 free of cost, the corresponding numbers in the preceding year being 2,831,857, 1,171,071 and 233,830. The total outturn of major produce increased by 10,115,091 cubic feet, but the increase was in fuel only: the outturn of timber fell by 393,340 cubic feet. The large increase in the proportion of timber and fuel removed by free grantees was due to concessions made by Government to relieve distress in certain districts of the Northern Circle. The total value of minor produce removed by all agencies rose by Rs. 1,51,866: there were decreases under some heads, but the increase in the value of grass alone amounted to Rs. 1,78,411 owing largely to export of fodder to the famine-stricken districts of the United Provinces.

Financial results.

105. The revenue for the year 1913-14 was Rs. 32,69,894 as compared with Rs. 31,21,888 in 1912-13, while the expenditure was Rs. 20,07,883 against Rs. 19,26,940. Omitting, however, the revenue and expenditure in connection

with the supply of fodder to the Bombay Presidency in 1912-13 and to the United Provinces in 1913-14, revenue exhibited an increase of Rs. 1,68,376 and expenditure of Rs. 90,273. The increase was shared by all three Circles, and there was a rise in receipts from all sources except from timber removed by other than Government agency and from grazing fees. The surplus of receipts over expenditure amounted to Rs. 12,62,011 as compared with Rs. 11,94,948 in the preceding year.

MINES AND QUARRIES

5—MINES AND QUARRIES

[Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces for the calendar year 1913, and Part I of the Statistics of British India.]

Collieries.

106. The opening of a new coal mine in the Chanda district raised the number of collieries in the Central Provinces from four to five, but the output was small and did not appreciably affect the Provincial statistics. The total output of coal remained almost constant at 235,650 tons as compared with 233,990 tons in 1912, a fall of 7,000 tons at the Ballarpur Colliery, which was sold by Government and was worked by a private firm, being counterbalanced by a corresponding increase of about 8,000 tons at Mohpani. There was, however, an appreciable rise in value from Rs. 9,61,066 to Rs. 10,19,941. The general average price was a little over Rs. 4-4-0 per ton, the Mohpani coal, as usual, fetching the highest, and the Chhindwara coal, in spite of a further advance, the lowest price. Collieries gave employment to 2,665 persons as compared with 2,530 in the preceding year.

Manganese Mining.

107. The fall of the abnormal rates of ocean freights consequent on the conclusion of peace in Europe, the opening of the Nagpur-Chhindwara and Balaghat-Katangi Railways and an improvement in the arrangements for imported labour were among the causes which contributed to a distinct revival of the manganese industry. The number of mines in active work increased from 28 to 40 and the output from 322,713 tons to 550,595, while the value of the mineral extracted reached the figure of Rs. 31,88,390, which was more than double the value of the output of the previous year. With the exception of Bhandara, where there was a decrease of 20,906 tons, every district in which mines are situated contributed its share to the increase in output. The value of the mineral at the pit's mouth varied, as usual, from district to district and from mine to mine, but for the Central Provinces as a whole it rose from Rs. 4-9-0 per ton in 1912 to Rs. 5-12-7 in 1913. The expansion of the manganese industry is reflected in the figures of employment; the average number of persons employed in all mines was 16,200 as against 11,553 in 1912, and of this total manganese accounted for 10,330 as compared with 6,196 in 1912. Local labour again failed to meet the demand, but imported labour was more readily available owing to a large influx of labourers in search of work from Rewa State and from beyond Jubbulpore. Wages, however, remained on a high level.

Miscellaneous.

108. The wolfram mine at Agargaon, restarted in 1912 on a small scale, was abandoned again in 1913, but a concession for galena was worked in the Drug district. 17 limestone quarries were worked as against 18 in 1912, while the number of other miscellaneous quarries for iron ore, clay, soapstone and bauxite remained constant at the previous year's figure of 7. With the exception of a certain amount of small-pox at Miragpur in Bhandara and at Mohpani in Narsinghpur, to deal with which prompt measures were taken, there was no serious epidemic during the year, and the health and physical condition of labourers remained good. The number of serious accidents rose from 10 to 27 and the number of lives lost from 3 to 15. In two cases, which resulted in seven deaths, the accidents were directly due to attempts to pilfer on the part of the injured persons, and in no case were they due to culpable negligence on the part of the management. Proper attention was given to these accidents by District Magistrates, and inspection of mines improved considerably, the total number of inspections being 106 as compared with 14 in the preceding year. There were three prosecutions under Section 22 (3) (*e*) of the Indian Mines Act, all of which were successful. 48 prospecting licenses and 16 mining leases were granted as against 68 prospecting licenses and 34 mining leases in the previous year.

6—MANUFACTURES

MANUFACTURES

[Reports on the working of the Factory Acts (XV of 1881 and XII of 1911) in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1913, and Part I of the Statistics of British India.]

Number of Factories, Employees, Accidents.

109. The year 1913 was the first during which the new Act (XII of 1911) was in force in the Central Provinces for the complete period of 12 months. In Berar Act XV of 1881 was in force until the end of the year, when the new Act was introduced. The steady progress of manufacturing industries in the Province was maintained: the total number of factories rose from 479 in 1912 to 487 in 1913, of which three in the Central Provinces remained closed throughout the year. The total number of operatives employed increased from 47,269 to 48,842, although the Berar figures show a slight falling off owing to the fact that the cotton crop of 1911-12 was a bumper one, while that of 1912-13 was only averagely good. There was an increase in the number of accidents in the Central Provinces from 109 to 141 and a decrease in Berar from 63 to 31. The increase in the Central Provinces was mainly confined to the Government Gun Carriage Factory at Jubbulpore. Experience of the working of the new Act and rules indicated that they were generally well suited to their purpose of protecting the health, safety and well-being of the operatives without causing unreasonable trouble to employers. Wages again continued to rule high.

Prosecutions. Supervision.

110. In the Central Provinces there were 20 prosecutions instituted under the new Act: of these one was withdrawn and the remaining 19 resulted in convictions. The number of inspections rose from 248 to 411, and only 9 factories, which were situated in outlying areas or were worked irregularly, escaped inspection. In Berar there was some misunderstanding as to the date of the introduction of the new Act, and the figures are less satisfactory. There were only three convictions under the old Act as compared with 57 in the previous year, while the number of inspections fell from 1,161 to 969, and 27 factories remained uninspected.

7—TRADE

TRADE

[Report on the Rail-borne Traffic of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March 1914, and Volume of Prices and Wages in India.]

General.

111. Omitting animals and treasure, the total rail-borne traffic of the year amounted to $74\frac{3}{4}$ million maunds valued at $38\frac{3}{4}$ crores of rupees as compared with $66\frac{3}{4}$ million maunds valued at $35\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees in the preceding year. The trade of the Province depends mainly on the success of its agriculture, and the harvests which directly influenced the returns for 1913-14 were the spring crops of 1912-13 and the autumn crops of 1913-14. The rabi harvest of 1912-13 was a good one, bumper crops of wheat and gram being reaped in the north of the Province, but the kharif crops of 1913-14 were unfavourably affected by the abrupt cessation of the monsoon and the outturn was not more than 75 per cent of the normal. The important cotton crop, however, gave a better outturn than was expected. The prices of juar and gram stood higher than usual, but with these exceptions there was little variation from the normal in the rates of food-grains. Increased production and a rise in freights accounted for a fall in the price of linseed, and cotton showed a decline from the high prices of recent years. The total value of imports and exports was the highest on record: the increase was mainly accounted for by the export of larger quantities of cotton, grain and oilseeds.

Imports.

112. The bulk of imports was slightly in excess of that of the previous year, and the value rose from $13\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{3}{4}$ crores of rupees. Among the more important articles of trade which contributed to the increase were metals, railway plant and rolling-stock, sugar and salt. A prosperous industrial year and more extensive construction of public and private buildings and works were responsible for a large increase in wrought iron and steel and machinery, while large quantities of metals, particularly special steel, were imported by the Gun Carriage Factory at Jubbulpore. On the other hand, there was a large drop in imports of manufactured and unmanufactured brass owing to the substitution of iron vessels for brass vessels among the poorer classes in some parts of the Province and the dullness of the marriage season. The larger requirements for railway plant were due to extensive replacement of rails, the doubling of the Nagpur-Shegaon

length of railway and the construction of light railways in Berar. The main articles in which there was a decrease of imports were coal and coke, provisions, wood, oilseeds and manufactured cotton. The quantity of coal imported for other than railway purposes showed an increase owing to the larger demand by gins and presses to enable them to deal with the heavy cotton crop. The decrease in the import of coal for railway purposes was due to the anticipation of a less heavy carrying season. The decline in manufactured cotton goods was caused partly by the restriction of credit which followed on the failure of the Bombay and Punjab Banks and partly by the dullness of the marriage season. While imports of foreign articles fell from 189 to 165 lakhs of rupees in value, imports of Indian goods rose from 44½ to 46 lakhs: the upward tendency noticed in previous reports was thus maintained.

Exports.

113. Exports increased in bulk from 41 to 49 million maunds and in value from 22 to 25 crores of rupees. The chief increases were under the heads of raw and manufactured cotton, grain and pulse, manganese, oilseeds, wood, chalk and lime: the most important decreases were under the heads of hides and skins, hemp and other fibres, railway plant and rolling-stock, coal and provisions. The rise in the value of manufactured cotton goods exported from 98½ to 114 crores of rupees was confined to the Nagpur Block, while a considerable decline under this head was noticed in the Jubbulpore and Nimar Blocks. The decrease in the exports of hides and skins was largely due to the less heavy cattle mortality in the Nerbudda and Jubbulpore Blocks. Exports of grain reflected the character of the seasons: wheat exhibited a rise from 4½ to 6½ million maunds, while rice showed a decline from 2 million to ¾ million maunds.

PUBLIC WORKS — 8—PUBLIC WORKS

[Administration Report on the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department for 1913-14, and Statistics of British India, Part III (iv) (*b*)]

114. The year 1913-14 was again one of exceptional activity in the Public Works Department, and the liberal grants assigned for Public works of all kinds allowed of good progress being made in providing for the many wants of the Province. The expenditure during the year constituted a record and amounted to Rs. 76,54,340; the expenditure on Imperial works was Rs. 3,95,841, on Provincial works Rs. 65,46,226 and on Contribution works Rs. 7,08,742. No additional permanent posts were sanctioned during the year, but the pressure of work was relieved to some extent by the appointment of a number of temporary Engineers. In spite of these additions to the staff, the percentage of expenditure on establishment exhibited a further decrease from 17·79 to 17·56.

Imperial Works.

115. Considerable progress was made in the construction of the new Post Office at Nagpur which was being built at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,43,203. Other important Imperial works in progress were the Post and Telegraph Audit Office at Nagpur, a bungalow for the Postmaster-General and combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Jalgaon, Tajnapeth and Badnur. The additions and alterations to All Saints' Cathedral at Nagpur were practically completed.

Provincial Works.

116. The expenditure on Provincial works amounted to Rs. 65,46,226. Rs. 36,41,945 was spent on original works, the balance being spent on maintenance and repair of existing roads and buildings, establishment and plant. This outlay followed the same general lines as in the previous year, and the principal works carried out are detailed below.

Buildings.

117. The expenditure on Forest buildings amounted to Rs. 89,955; bungalows for the Forest Officers at Chhindwara, Mandla and Bilaspur were completed, and a second bungalow at Mandla was begun. Excise buildings accounted for an outlay of Rs. 1,37,017. The new distillery at Badnur was practically completed, while the distillery at Raipur and the bonded warehouses at Bemetara and Baloda Bazar were well advanced. The bonded warehouses at Baihar, Gondia, Daryapur and Ellichpur were completed.

A sum of Rs. 7,945 was spent on additions and alterations to Government House at Nagpur and Rs. 14,415 on improvements to the Residency at Pachmarhi.

A bungalow was purchased at Pachmarhi for the residence of the Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, and good progress was made in overtaking the heavy programme of residential buildings at Nagpur. Further expenditure to the extent of Rs. 78,499 was incurred during the year on the construction of the Legislative Council Hall at Nagpur.

The outlay on Land Revenue buildings was Rs. 2,44,459. The extension to the office of the Commissioner of Settlements at Nagpur was completed at a cost of Rs. 25,494. A portable Settlement Office at Hoshangabad was constructed at a cost of Rs. 6,786, and materials were collected for a similar building at Seoni. Rs. 87,000 was expended on the construction of Tahsil buildings at Gondia, Katol, Lakhnadon, Niwas and Katghora, while the conversion of the Civil Court buildings at Khamgaon into a Tahsil building approached completion, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 13,465. Considerable progress was made in the construction of quarters for officials at various Tahsils.

Expenditure for the Agriculture Department amounted to Rs. 1,15,604 as compared with Rs. 66,650 in the preceding year. Work on the Agricultural Laboratory at Nagpur continued, and the outlay during the year was Rs. 51,508. The Experimental Farm buildings at Sindewahi were almost completed, the outlay being Rs. 38,807 against an estimate of Rs. 40,554, while the farm buildings at Adhartal and Labhandih were extended and students' quarters were provided at the latter place and at Powarkhera.

The demands of the Educational Department were again heavy. The Victoria Engineering School and Hostel were completed at a cost of Rs. 55,886 and the Craddock High School at Wardha at a cost of Rs. 69,438. Work on the Arts College at Jubbulpore was stopped until November 1913, but subsequently very good progress was made both on the main work and on the subsidiary buildings. Rs. 25,628 was spent on the Science Laboratories for the schools at Chhindwara, Hoshangabad and Khandwa, and work on less important educational buildings was in progress in almost every district in the Province.

The Department of Law and Justice accounted for an expenditure of Rs. 2,32,426. The additions and alterations to the District Court House at Hoshangabad were completed at a cost of Rs. 49,255, while Rs. 29,517 was spent on the extensions to the Civil Court House at Wardha, where the new Circuit House also approached completion. Materials to the value of Rs. 9,165 were collected for the construction of a new District Court House at Chhindwara, and bungalows for officers were either completed or in progress at Hoshangabad, Raipur and Saugor.

Police buildings absorbed the large sum of Rs. 4,82,314; among the more important items of this expenditure were Rs. 25,093 for the Kotwali and subsidiary buildings at Amraoti, Rs. 15,000 for a site for the proposed extension of the existing Kotwali at Jubbulpore, Rs. 11,303 for the Police Naka and quarters at Malkapur and Rs. 11,512 for the Police Station House at Patharia.

The total expenditure on Hospitals, Dispensaries and Asylums was Rs. 1,43,532. Rs. 47,244 was paid for the acquisition of a site for the construction of the new Medical School at Nagpur and about Rs. 24,000 was laid out on collection of materials and on construction. Rs. 25,994 was spent on the completion of the improvements to the Lunatic Asylum at Nagpur. The total expenditure on Jails was Rs. 33,920.

Communications.

118. The total expenditure on communications was Rs. 28,32,988, of which Rs. 11,91,795 was laid out on original works. Among the more important lines of road communication under construction during the year were the Nagpur-Amraoti, Baihar-Topla, Chanda-Allapalli-Sironcha and Anji-Wadhona roads. The extension of improved village roads in the Mandla district was vigorously pushed on, and the laying out of a similar net-work of Class III roads in the Bilaspur district was inaugurated. Considerable sums were again spent on causeways and bridges, with the object of keeping important lines of communication open throughout the year. The feeder roads along the Itarsi-Betul Railway were completed and opened for traffic, and rapid progress was made with the construction of Forest service roads. In the north of the Province some

expansion of the ordinary programme was necessitated by the scarcity which followed on the abrupt cessation of the monsoon, but for the most part an extension of metal-breaking operations was all that was required. The expenditure on arboriculture amounted to Rs. 51,424.

Sanitary Works.

119. Water-works and drainage works are the two classes of Sanitary works with which the Public Works Department is concerned. The improvements to the Wadali storage tank at Amraoti were completed at a cost of Rs. 33,200, and the temporary pumping installation worked most satisfactorily and saved the town from water famine. The supplementary water-supply to Burhanpur Town was maintained successfully throughout the hot weather at a cost of Rs. 11,240. Work on the Gorewara water-works extension at Nagpur was completed, and good progress was made with the Raipur and Hinganghat schemes. Detailed water-works projects for six towns were sent to Municipal Committees for he elaboration of financial proposals, and investigations for the provision of water-supply to eight other towns were in progress. The most important drainage schemes on which work was in progress during the year were those of Nagpur City and Wardha. The sanctioned estimate for the former work is Rs. 16,00,000, and at the close of the year the outlay amounted to Rs. 4,25,000. Very good progress was made on the Wardha drainage scheme, and at the close of the year the work had been completed with the exception of a few street drains. Drainage projects for Jubbulpore, Harda, Seoni and Khamgaon were in the hands of the Municipalities concerned and projects were prepared for eight other towns.

Miscellaneous.

120. Among the works undertaken for District Councils were the construction of the Khandwa-Jaswari section of the Khandwa-Melghat road, a pile bridge over the Banjar river in Mandla, and the Khimlasa-Malthone road in the Saugor district. The latter road was completed at a cost of Rs. 27,744 and handed over to the District Council. A sum of Rs. 51,101 was expended on extensive improvements to the Rajkumar College at Raipur.

IRRIGATION

9—IRRIGATION

[Brief Note on Irrigation work done in the Central Provinces during the year 1913-14, for the Irrigation portion of the Public Works Department Annual Administration Report, and Statistics of British India, Part III, Commercial Services.]

Area under Irrigation.

121. The early cessation of the rains created a keen demand for irrigation throughout the Province, while at the same time it caused a deficiency in the supply of water available. Many of the tanks, especially in the northern districts where the rainfall was shortest, did not fill and could only irrigate a small fraction of the areas which they commanded. However, the area irrigated during the year was 71,021 acres as compared with 49,174 acres in the preceding year. Abnormal leakage in the channel resulted in the failure of the sugarcane irrigation under the Gorajheri tank, but this defect is being remedied by lining the channel with masonry and increasing the storage to an extent which will admit of 1,000 acres being irrigated. The tanks in the Bhandara district were able to comply in full with a very keen demand for water, and there was a marked increase in the cultivation of sugarcane and garden crops under the Ramtek Reservoir.

Major Works.

122. The Ramtek, Khairbanda, Chandpur and Roomal tanks were completed: the first of these, however, has never filled and a project was under consideration for constructing a supply channel to it from the Pench river. Progress on the Chorkamara and Bodulkasa tanks was disappointingly slow owing to the difficulty of securing an adequate supply of labour, but work on the Jamunia and Kattanjheri tanks was well advanced. The Gorajheri tank was practically complete, except for the construction of a few minors and the provision of a masonry lining for the channel, and it was thought that it might be possible to close the dam of the Naleshwar tank before the rains of 1915.

The head works of the Asola-Mendha tank were finished and the construction of the distributaries was nearing completion at the close of the year. Very good progress was made on the head works, main canal and branches of the Wainganga Canal scheme. Work on the Mahanadi Canal proceeded so rapidly that irrigation from the Mandhar branch in 1915 was contemplated, and progress on the Tendula Canal was at last up to expectations.

123. The grants and expenditure under the various fund heads were :— **Expenditure.**

Head of Account.	Grant.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
35.—Construction of Protective Irrigation Works	20,74,000	20,25,093
42.—Major Works—Working Expenses	78,000	75,429
49.—Productive Irrigation Works	21,50,000	22,56,188
43.—Minor Works and Navigation	5,70,000	5,73,720
Deposits—Contribution	17,650	9,235

124. There were few changes in water-rates during the year. In the Baihar tahsil of the Balaghat district the rate for kharif crops was raised from Re. 1 to Rs. 1-4-0 per acre, and in the Jubbulpore district the rate for thick cane was raised from Rs. 7 to Rs. 12 and the rate for thin cane and garden crops from Rs. 7 to Rs. 10. The total revenue assessed was Rs. 2,16,170 as compared with Rs. 1,53,701 in the preceding year, and at the close of the year collections amounted to Rs. 1,87,043. **Revenue.**

125. In the north of the Province, where the failure of the crops caused a certain amount of distress, fifteen new minor tank works were started between October 1913 and February 1914. These works, of which eleven were in the Jubbulpore district and three in the Damoh district, proved most useful and afforded employment to large numbers of labourers. The Agriculture Department continued, by experiment and demonstration at the several Government Farms, to promote improvements in methods of rice cultivation and to encourage the cultivation of sugarcane and garden crops. The areas commanded by the larger irrigation works which are now approaching completion will afford a wide field for the expansion of the activities of the Department in this direction. **General.**

CHAPTER V

REVENUE AND FINANCE

[Further details and statistics will be found in Part IV (*b*) of the Statistics of British India.]

GROSS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

126. The following statement compares the receipts and expenditure and closing balances under the various heads for the years 1912-13 and 1913-14:—

	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing Balance.	
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1912-13.	1913-14.
Imperial Revenue ...	83,26,043	1,11,90,264	64,50,408	70,11,620	...	...
Provincial Revenue ...	3,25,38,278	3,06,83,749	2,74,53,032	2,88,02,504	90,72,033	1,09,53,278
Deposits of Local Funds—						
District Funds ...	29,30,760	33,92,932	26,99,914	31,71,624	16,70,511	18,91,819
Jaglia Local Cess Funds ...	5,25,418	5,22,411	5,20,101	5,28,330	3,00,609	2,94,690
Other Local Funds ...	9,89,149	11,99,125	8,97,796	10,67,153	5,30,011	6,61,983
Municipal Funds ...	26,82,543	28,44,337	25,16,084	26,57,652	8,69,844	10,56,529
Total ...	4,79,92,191	4,98,32,818	4,05,37,335	4,32,38,883	1,24,43,008	1,48,58,299

REVENUE AND FINANCE—IMPERIAL.

127. The Imperial Revenue for 1913-14 was Rs. 28,64,221 more than that of 1912-13, while the expenditure in 1913-14 was Rs. 5,61,212 more than that of the previous year. The heads under which striking differences occur are given in the following table:—

Revenue.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1912-13.	1913-14.		1912-13.	1913-14.
Land Revenue ...	91,42,552	93,56,130	Protective Works—Irrigation.	17,56,497	19,80,776
Adjustment ...	—69,30,480	—47,83,264	Major Works—Irrigation ..	4,54,231	5,51,339
Stamps ...	18,57,242	19,69,794	Civil Works—P. W. .	9,41,787	11,65,861
Excise ...	26,51,121	29,06,025	Other Heads ..	32,97,893	33,13,644
Customs ...	2,71,882	3,00,919			
Assessed Taxes ...	3,70,630	4,31,370			
Irrigation Major Works ...	98,055	1,44,739			
Other heads ...	8,65,041	8,64,551			
Total ...	83,26,043	1,11,90,264	Total ...	64,50,408	70,11,620

REVENUE.

128. *Land Revenue* (*Imperial share one-half*).—The increase was mainly due to enhancement of the normal demand on the completion of Settlement operations in certain districts, sale of escheated malik-makbuza land and increased receipts from quarries and for copies of Record-of-Rights in Berar.

The decrease under Adjustment was chiefly due to the absence of the non-recurring assignments for Discretionary grants, Sanitation and Education.

Stamps (*Imperial share one-half*).—The increases were chiefly under (*a*) Sale of Court-fee stamps, due to a rise in the number of suits of higher values, and (*b*) Sale of General stamps, owing to speculative transactions in the cotton trade in the cotton-producing tracts.

Excise (Imperial share one-half).—The largest increase occurred under "License and Distillery-fees," and was due to keen competition at the auctions in view of an anticipated advance in retail selling prices, enhancement of duty rates and the extension of the distillery area.

Customs.—The increase was due to recovery of arrears as well as to the flourishing condition of certain mills.

Assessed Taxes (Imperial share one-half).—The large increase was due partly to the revised methods of assessment introduced in August 1911 and partly to the increased commercial, industrial and material prosperity of the people.

Irrigation Major Works.—The increase was due to an extension of irrigation on account of several tanks having been completed and brought into operation.

EXPENDITURE.

Protective Works—Irrigation.—The increase was mainly due to the good progress made in connection with the Tendula Canal.

Major Works—Irrigation.—The increase was under interest on debt and was due to the proportionate increase of capital outlay.

Civil Works (in charge of Public Works Officers).—The increase was mainly due to the heavier outlay on the Postal Audit Office and the General Post Office at Nagpur.

REVENUE AND FINANCE—PROVINCIAL.

129. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1912-13 and 1913-14. The details of the Major heads under which striking differences have occurred are given below:—

Revenue.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1912-13.	1913-14.		1912-13.	1913-14.
Land Revenue ...	91,47,377	93,61,099	Assignments, etc. ...	21,738	48,872
Adjustment ...	+ 69,30,480	+ 47,83,264	Land Revenue ...	38,38,802	40,18,749
Stamps ...	18,57,243	19,69,794	General Administration ...	8,68,131	9,30,430
Excise ..	79,53,364	87,18,074	Law and Justice—Courts of Law ...	25,77,687	27,86,971
Assessed Taxes ...	3,70,630	4,31,370	Do. Jails ...	5,61,448	6,80,139
Registration ..	3,89,805	4,18,084	Police	33,31,457	34,11,226
Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	2,35,053	2,89,281	Education	21,10,637	22,02,034
			Medical	10,70,733	11,66,605
Law and Justice—Jails..	2,31,183	2,81,162	Scientific, etc.	7,12,431	7,97,352
Scientific, etc. ...	1,15,995	1,42,392	Superannuation Allowances, etc....	7,57,493	8,66,965
Receipts in aid of Superannuation, etc.	98,070	1,24,284	Stationery and Printing ..	3,26,223	4,05,077
			Miscellaneous	1,62,005	1,25,804
Stationery and Printing.	38,545	64,813	Minor Works and Navigation ..	4,64,743	5,73,720
			Civil Works (C. O.) ...	2,26,118	3,37,559
Miscellaneous ...	2,09,422	1,86,431	Other heads	1,04,17,386	1,04,51,001
Civil Works (P. W. O.)	13,14,495	2,40,045	Closing Balance	90,72,033	1,09,53,278
Other heads ...	36,46,616	36,73,650			
Opening Balance ...	39,86,787	90,72,033			
Total ...	3,65,25,065	3,97,55,782	Total ...	3,65,25,065	3,97,55,782

REVENUE.

The increases under heads which are divided in fixed proportions between Imperial and Provincial have been explained under Imperial Revenue and Finance. The variations under the remaining heads are noted below:—

Registration.—The increase was the result of a good harvest, the registration of documents of higher value and a rise in the value of land.

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—The unusually large receipts under Magisterial fines mainly account for the increase.

Law and Justice—Jails.—Unusually large supplies of Jail-manufactured articles to the Police and the Supply and Transport Departments account for the increase.

Scientific and other Minor Departments.—The improvement was due mainly to increased receipts from Experimental and Dairy Farms.

Receipts in aid of Superannuation, Retired and Compassionate Allowances.—The increase was due to (*a*) increase in pension contributions paid by certain Municipalities on account of the revision of their establishments, (*b*) larger receipts on account of capitalised value of pensions and (*c*) the fact that two new Municipalities contributed towards pensions for their employés.

Stationery and Printing.—The increase was mainly the result of larger sales of rent receipt forms.

Miscellaneous.—The decrease was mainly under Unclaimed Deposits, owing to the refund to certain Zamindars of the Chhattisgarh Division of compensation on account of resumption of income from pounds, and under Contributions, as the actuals of 1912-13 included arrear contributions from Court of Wards.

Civil Works (in charge of Public Works Officers).—The decrease is nominal. The actuals of 1912-13 include the sale price of the Ballarpur Colliery and the revenue derived from it during that year. The Colliery having been sold to a private party in March 1913, no revenue was received from it in 1913-14. A compensatory assignment of Rs. 1,34,000 is, however, now being annually passed on from Imperial to Provincial.

EXPENDITURE.

130. *Assignments and Compensations.*—The increase was due to a special payment on account of Excise compensation to certain Zamindars of the Chhattisgarh States for the resumption of their Abkari rights.

Land Revenue.—The increase was mainly due to (*a*) revision of the Land Records staff in three districts, (*b*) increased expenditure under salaries as a result of the amalgamation and regrading of the Central Provinces and Berar Commissions, (*c*) Settlement operations being in progress in five districts instead of in three as in the previous year, (*d*) heavier payments to district and village officials on account of collections and (*e*) revision of the Sub-divisional establishment.

General Administration.—The increase was due to (*a*) the raising of the pay of 2nd Class Commissioners, coupled with the fact that in the previous year junior officers held these posts, (*b*) the payment of privilege leave allowance of the Financial Commissioner and (*c*) the return from leave in October 1913 of the permanent Commissioner of Excise.

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—The increase was chiefly due to (*a*) the payment of increased and arrear salaries consequent on the amalgamation and regrading of the Central Provinces and Berar Commissions, (*b*) the appointments of a Legal Remembrancer and an Additional Judicial Commissioner, (*c*) the revision of the process-serving and Sub-divisional establishments and (*d*) heavier expenditure on diet money and travelling expenses of witnesses and pleaders' fees.

Law and Justice—Jails.—Extensive purchases of raw materials for meeting the heavy demands of the Supply and Transport Department for articles of Jail manufacture, high prices of rations owing to unfavourable agricultural conditions, revision of establishments and increase in the Jail population were the main causes of the large increase.

Police.—The increase was chiefly due to filling up of vacancies in the Police Force, fewer absences on leave of senior officers and the purchase of large supplies of clothing, arms and ammunition.

Education.—The increase was chiefly under "Government Schools—General," owing to new teachers sanctioned in 1912-13 having worked for the whole of the year 1913-14, to larger expenditure on school furniture and apparatus and to payments in support of Municipal and Local Schools. There were also increases due to the appointment of five new Deputy Inspectors, purchase of tents, equipment of the Engineering Branch of the Victoria College of Science and to the appointment of an Assistant Director and Inspector of European Schools.

Medical.—The increase was mainly due to larger grants to Hospitals and Dispensaries, chiefly for building purposes, met from the Imperial grant received for Medical relief and other allied objects.

Scientific and other Minor Departments.—The actuals of 1913-14 include special contributions paid to District Councils for Veterinary buildings. The staff of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, was also increased, but this increase was counterbalanced by general savings.

Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.—The increase was largely due to the payment of commuted value of pensions, to the growth of the superannuation and retired allowances list and to the payment of the pension of a member of the Indian Civil Service.

Stationery and Printing.—The increase was mainly due to the printing of ryots' receipt books at private presses and to larger supply of stationery from Central Stores.

Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation.—The increase was due to additional expenditure on new tanks started during the year to afford relief on account of scarcity prevailing in some districts.

Civil Works (in charge of Civil Officers).—The increase was due to payments to local bodies of grants for the maintenance of certain buildings and roads made over to their management.

CHAPTER VI

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

1—DETAILS OF CENSUS

DETAILS OF CENSUS

131. An account of the above subject will be found on pages 37—54 of the Administration Report for the year 1911-12.

2—BIRTHS AND DEATHS

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

[Annual Sanitary Report for the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1913, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

System of registration.

132. No change was made during the year in the system of registering vital statistics. Difficulty is always experienced in getting householders and even Municipalities to recognise the importance of reporting events promptly and accurately, but with the advance in town sanitation a gradual improvement is being effected. During the year 258 persons were warned for failing to report and 733 were prosecuted and fined Rs. 938-5-0.

Births.

133. The number of recorded births was 685,557 as compared with 671,298 in 1912: the respective ratios per mille of population work out at 49·26 and 48·24 against a quinquennial mean of 51·52. Almost every district returned a higher birth-rate than in the previous year, and in the few districts which proved exceptions the decrease is attributed to the high death-rates in the previous year, indicating sickness and depression. The percentage of male to female births was 104·79. The birth-rate in the Central Provinces was, as usual, higher than that in any other Province in India.

Deaths.

134. The number of recorded deaths showed a substantial decline from 589,285 in 1912 to 421,395 in 1913. The death-rate of 30·28 was well below the quinquennial mean of 38·62, and only four lower death-rates have been recorded in the past 20 years. The general healthiness of the year is reflected in the fall of the rate of mortality from non-epidemic causes from 38·17 to 28·68 per mille. Deaths of children under five years of age constituted 57 per cent of the total mortality. This rate is still high, but it compares very favourably with that of the previous year: calculated on the number of births the infant mortality was 230·86 per mille as compared with 293·60 in 1912.

Chief diseases.

135. There was a decrease in the number of deaths due to each of the chief diseases except small-pox. Cholera, though not so severe as in 1912, was fairly prevalent in almost all districts and accounted for 15,286 deaths as compared with 34,313 in the preceding year. Plague was singularly quiescent and caused a mortality of only 512 as compared with 19,199 in 1912. The fever mortality fell from 270,162 to 195,534. and that of dysentery and diarrhœa from 58,825 to 34,660. The death-rate from small-pox was ·46 per mille as compared with ·33 in 1912 and ·12 in 1911: these figures indicate that the epidemic wave of small-pox, having subsided after 1906, is again gathering force.

Special measures.

136. The first part of the year 1913 saw the inauguration of a special plague staff in the Central Provinces, and with the completion of the arrangements for the equipment and strengthening of the staff coincided the almost complete disappearance of plague. Owing to the mildness of the epidemic during the year only 2,046 inoculations were performed, but the staff was usefully employed in dealing with epidemics of other diseases and in moving about the Province with travelling dispensaries in order to bring medical relief to villages remote from dispensaries and by gaining the confidence of the villagers to remove their antagonism to plague measures. Proposals were drawn up by the Sanitary Board for increasing the efficiency of the vaccinating staff, and the scheme was submitted for the sanction of the Local Administration. Efforts were made in various directions to provide remedies against infantile disease and mortality: the training

of midwives under the auspices of the Victoria Memorial Fund continued at Jubbulpore, and elsewhere several Municipal Committees arranged for the periodic attendance on maternity cases of female doctors or nurses; a children's hospital was opened in Jubbulpore. The general malaria survey of the Province was completed, and the recommendations of the Sanitary Board were before the Local Administration at the close of the year. In spite of the fact that fever was less prevalent, a sum of Rs. 9,351 was realised from the sale of quinine as compared with Rs. 9,010 in the preceding year. This may be taken as an indication that the value of quinine prophylaxis is becoming more widely recognised.

3—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

[Report on the Inland Emigration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th Juue 1914, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

137. The past year was a somewhat favourable one for recruitment and witnessed a comparative revival in emigration to Assam. The number of contractors, sub-contractors and recruiters working under Chapter III of the Act increased from 297 to 357, while the number of coolies secured by them rose from 1,654 to 2,715. Under Chapter IV the number of local agents fell from 25 to 17, but the number of garden sardars increased from 4,275 to 4,651, and the total number of labourers recruited increased from 3,273 to 5,271. Four garden sardars empowered under Section 90 of the Act recruited 77 coolies as against 39 recruited by 25 sardars in the previous year. In all 8,063 labourers—5,233 males and 2,830 females—with 3,009 dependants left these Provinces for the labour districts. But this advance in recruiting was only to be expected in view of the unfavourable nature of the season, and it must be remembered that practically all recruiting is confined to the two districts of Bilaspur and Jubbulpore, where the crop failure was most pronounced. The figures do not indicate any real revival of emigration. On the contrary they are merely the expression of economic conditions, and with the return of more normal seasons there will no doubt be a relapse to the insignificant figures of recent years. Moreover, the figures for the year, comparatively high though they are, show to what an extent labour in the tea-gardens of Assam has lost its attractions for the people of the Central Provinces even in a year of economic stress. 5,029 recruiters in all succeeded in recruiting 8,063 coolies, and of 9,244 emigrants, including dependants, despatched from Bilaspur and Jubbulpore, it was definitely ascertained that 4,774, or over 50 per cent, were in reality residents of Native States and not British Indian subjects.

138. Nine prosecutions under the Act took place during the year and five convictions were secured as against nine prosecutions with four convictions in 1913. But the figures of prosecutions are misleading; it is common knowledge that evasions of the provisions of the Act are far more frequent than is indicated by the action taken in the Courts. In Bilaspur two notorious offenders were prosecuted under Section 368 of the Indian Penal Code and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. **Working of Act VI of 1901.**

139. The receipts of the year rose from Rs. 4,586 to Rs. 5,436 and expenditure from Rs. 756 to Rs. 923. **Financial.**

4—MEDICAL RELIEF

MEDICAL RELIEF

[Triennial Report on Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar for the period ending the 31st December 1913, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

140. At the beginning of the year there were 270 hospitals and dispensaries. 17 dispensaries, consisting chiefly of temporary institutions on irrigation and railway construction works, were closed during the year and 19 were opened: the balance at the end of the year was thus 272. Of this number, 27 were maintained by the State, 164 by Local Bodies and 36 by Railways, while the remainder were either private or State-aided institutions. Three peripatetic dispensaries started work before the close of the year, in addition to the thirteen which were organised mainly for the purpose of preventing and combating plague epidemics and were working under the orders of the Sanitary Commissioner. **Number of dispensaries.**

MEDICAL RELIEF

Number of patients.

141. The total number of patients treated at the various dispensaries in the Province was 1,674,980 as compared with 1,711,270 in 1912. The decrease of 36,290 is attributed to the general healthiness of the year and was confined to out-door patients: the number of in-patients actually showed a slight rise from 13,926 to 14,075. Satisfactory features were that the daily average attendance of women and children showed an increase and that the fall in the daily average of males was only trifling in comparison with the fall in the number of patients treated: these facts indicate an increasing faith in European methods and a greater inclination to continue a course of treatment until a cure is effected.

Private dispensaries.

142. The number of private dispensaries open at the end of the year was 36 as compared with 32 in the preceding year. Most of these institutions were maintained by Missionary bodies, while the remainder were supported by private individuals or companies. The total number of patients treated was 140,966, of whom 1,318 were indoor and 139,648 outdoor patients.

Relative frequency of diseases.

143. The chief diseases for which relief was sought were malarial fever, eye diseases, diseases of the digestive system, skin diseases, ulcers, diseases of the respiratory system, ear diseases, dyspepsia and injuries. There were increases as compared with the previous year under eye diseases, ulcers, respiratory diseases, ear diseases, injuries, pyrexia of uncertain origin, diseases of the nervous system and diseases of the organs of locomotion, while there were decreases under malaria, skin diseases, dyspepsia, rheumatic fever, diarrhœa, dysentery and anæmia.

Surgical operations.

144. The number of surgical operations rose from 45,702 to 47,622. A continuous increase during recent years in the number of cases in which cures were effected is the result of improvements in the operating rooms and surgical equipment of hospitals and dispensaries and the greater attention paid to surgical cleanliness and asepsis.

Income.

145. The total receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 11,41,255 as compared with Rs. 9,16,051 in 1912. The greater part of this large increase is accounted for by a special grant from Government of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees for improvement of hospitals and dispensaries, while there was also an increase of nearly Rs. 10,000 in the Government contribution under the head of salaries. Subscriptions by Europeans remained fairly constant, while subscriptions by Indians exhibited a further rise from Rs. 82,754 to Rs. 89,734.

Expenditure.

146. The total expenditure was Rs. 6,29,549 as compared with Rs. 5,05,794 in 1912. Buildings and repairs accounted for Rs. 1,43,474 as against Rs. 90,018 in the preceding year, and there was an increase of over Rs. 10,000 under the head of salaries to Medical Officers.

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

5—TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

[Notes on the Annual Statements of the Lunatic Asylum in the Central Provinces for the year 1913, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Numbers and health.

147. The year opened with 280 lunatics under confinement: there were 91 admissions during the year, 41 discharges and 20 deaths, so that the population at the close of the year was 310. Of the 91 lunatics admitted, 14 were criminal and the remainder non-criminal. 31 lunatics were discharged as cured and 8 as improved. The number of deaths decreased from 29 to 20 and included three lunatics who were admitted in a dying condition. Admissions into hospital numbered 92: 20 of these died, 22 were discharged as cured and 50 were transferred to the infirm gang. There were no patients in hospital at the end of the year. The stools of all the inmates were examined twice during the year to discover intestinal worms: in this respect there was found to be a satisfactory improvement. The rate of mortality, which stood at 6·67 per cent of average strength, was the lowest in India.

Expenditure.

148. The total amount spent on the upkeep of the Asylum was Rs. 84,975 as compared with Rs. 58,544 in the previous year. Structural improvements accounted for the greater part of this increase, but higher rates had also to be paid for food-grains and fodder for sheep and cattle. The average cost per

lunatic was Rs. 229-0-8 against Rs. 162-9-11 in 1912, but if the Public Works Department charges be excluded, the cost was only Rs. 133-12-8 as compared with Rs. 138-3-10. The amount realised from paying patients was Rs. 3,759-13-11 as compared with Rs. 4,984-14-6, the fall being due to the discharge of three well-to-do patients during the year.

149. The profits of the manufacturing department fell from Rs. 3,098 to Rs. 2,591. The reason for the decrease was that the outturn of milk in the dairy was reduced by the sale of 74 old cattle. 89·17 per cent of the lunatics were employed on various industries. The structural alterations to the existing buildings approached completion, and the improvement in the condition of the buildings probably accounted largely for the improvement in the health of the inmates. **Industries and Improvements.**

6—SANITATION

SANITATION

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1913, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

150. Considerable progress was made during the year both in the construction of works and in the investigation of new projects. The most important water-works schemes in connection with which construction work was in progress during the year were those at Nagpur, Raipur, Amraoti, Hinganghat and Burhanpur. Work on the Gorewara extension scheme at Nagpur was completed, and the savings of Rs. 86,000 on the estimate are to be spent in effecting various improvements. Work was also in progress on laying branch mains and the construction of a raised iron reservoir to give a water-supply to Government House and to the extension of the Nagpur Civil Station on Seminary Hill. At Raipur a length of 300 feet of the infiltration gallery was completed, and the results were so satisfactory that the construction of another length of 300 feet was taken in hand. The temporary pumping installation at Amraoti Town worked successfully all through the hot weather and saved the city from water-famine. In order to put the water-supply on a permanently satisfactory footing a scheme was adopted at an estimated cost of $8\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees, and the Municipal Committee were engaged in elaborating financial proposals. The completion of the improvement to the storage tank at Wadali immensely improved the water-supply of the Amraoti Civil Station. The construction of the dam across the Wana river at Hinganghat was completed, and the supplementary water-supply to Burhanpur pumped from the Taptee river was successfully maintained. The chief drainage schemes on which work was in progress were those of Nagpur and Wardha. The sanctioned estimate for the Nagpur scheme is 16 lakhs of rupees, and the outlay up to the end of the year amounted to $4\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs. At Wardha the drainage works were completed, with the exception of a few street drains in outlying parts of the town. **Chief sanitary works.**

151. The reconstitution of the Sanitary Board gave a marked impetus to the sanitary branch of Municipal administration. Action was taken on the advice of the Board to extend town limits, to open out suitable markets, to introduce building by-laws and to adopt standard designs approved by the Board for latrines, wells, pumps, meat markets, slaughter-houses and other buildings. In Jubbulpore a large area was secured for the extension of the town and an old tank bed was being converted into a park and recreation ground. Other towns in which land was acquired for expansion were Burhanpur, Chhindwara, Pandhurna, Sausar and Amraoti. Congested areas in Hoshangabad, Bilaspur and Khandwa were dealt with, and the question of relieving congestion was under consideration in several other towns. The better organisation of the Municipal sanitary staff produced good results, and the training of Sanitary Inspectors at Bombay led to increased efficiency. Medical inspection of school children in Municipal areas continued, but this important work is so heavy that it could not be adequately undertaken by the ordinary staff, and the question of the appointment by the Education Department of a whole-time medical officer for the inspection of schools was under consideration. **Municipal sanitation.**

152. The provisions of the Village Sanitation Act were extended to three more villages during the year, bringing the total number up to 80. Receipts amounted to Rs. 1,60,532 as compared with Rs. 85,667 in 1912 and expenditure **Rural sanitation.**

to Rs. 1,14,540 as compared with Rs. 70,404. The chief items of expenditure were under the heads of clearing of village sites, construction and repair of roads and miscellaneous improvements. In the "Town Fund" villages and in other villages managed by Mukaddams with a special establishment the receipts amounted to Rs. 92,662 as compared with Rs. 55,216 in the preceding year.

VACCINATION

7—VACCINATION

[Triennial Report on Vaccination in the Central Provinces and Berar for the years 1911-12 to 1913-14, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Mortality from small-pox.

153. The number of deaths from small-pox was 6,174 in 1913-14 as compared with 5,081 in 1912-13, and the rate of mortality was ·44 per mille as compared with ·37. The heaviest mortality was in the Buldana district.

General record of vaccination.

154. The total number of vaccination operations performed during the year in British territory was 622,376 as compared with 574,510 in the preceding year. The reasons given for this increase are the diminution of plague epidemics, the increase in the staff and their emoluments and the interest taken by district authorities. Re-vaccinations showed an increase of 29,104 over the figures of 1912-13. Although there was an improvement in the amount and quality of vaccination work, the present position cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Local bodies do not recognise their responsibility and the staff is inadequate in numbers and intelligence. Consequently a considerable percentage of infants escape vaccination, the immunity conferred by the operation is often poor and little progress is made with secondary work. Proposals were drawn up to ameliorate this condition of affairs and the scheme was forwarded by the Sanitary Board for the sanction of the Local Administration.

Vaccination in Municipalities.

155. There were 43,084 births in Municipal towns during 1913-14, and deaths among children under one year of age numbered 10,779. The number of infants successfully vaccinated was 27,091, or 84 per cent of the available children under one year. In order to reduce the number of children left unprotected, school inspections in Municipal areas were instituted and leaflets were issued by the Director of Public Instruction to schoolmasters in order to secure their co-operation.

Lymph.

156. Excellent lymph was produced at the new Central Vaccine Depôt at Nagpur, where the product is manufactured on scientific lines and freed from all undesirable matter by modern processes. The distribution, however, was limited owing to the inadequacy of the present accommodation.

Expenditure.

157. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 84,241 as compared with Rs. 69,384 in 1912-13. Of this amount, Rs. 64,570 was paid by Local Funds and Rs. 8,604 by Municipalities, while the remainder of the expenditure was met from Provincial Funds. The largest increase in expenditure occurred under the head of "Contingencies." The cost of each successful operation was Re. 0-2-3 as compared with Re. 0-2-1 in the previous year.

CHAPTER VII

INSTRUCTION

1 GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

158. An account of this subject will be found on pages 97 and 98, sections 296—304, of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1911-12.

2—EDUCATION

EDUCATION

[Report on the state and progress of education in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1913-14, and Part VII of the Statistics of British India.]

General.

159. The year's figures show an increase of 333 in the number of schools and of 28,314 in the number of scholars. The increase was most marked in the primary education of boys and was rendered possible by the application of Government of India grants. At the close of the year the total number of educational institutions was 4,634 and the number of scholars was 365,128. The percentage of the total number of scholars to the total population of school-going age was 16·21 as compared with 14·85 in the preceding year. All castes and creeds contributed to the increase in the number of scholars except Native Christians and Buddhists, whose numbers show a slight fall. In Berar there was some advance in the education of children belonging to low castes, and the demand for instruction among aborigines is growing, particularly among the Gonds in the Mandla district.

Expenditure.

160. The total expenditure on education rose from Rs. 36,58,881 in 1912-13 to Rs. 39,80,802 in 1913-14. During the year additional recurring grants amounting to Rs. 2,69,000 were received from the Government of India and arrangements were made for their allotment under various heads. The total expenditure from Government of India grants amounted to Rs. 4,61,369.

Recent changes.

161. The creation of four additional posts in the Indian Educational Service was sanctioned, and an Inspector of European Schools and Science, two Headmasters of High Schools and a second Inspectress of Schools were appointed. The cadre of the Provincial Educational Service was also increased by the appointment of two additional Assistant Inspectresses of Schools. The pay and prospects of the members of the Subordinate Educational Service were improved by the raising of the minimum salary of graduate teachers to Rs. 60, the securing of regular promotion on a time-scale and the provision of a generous supply of special posts on higher pay for selected men. The minimum pay of undergraduate teachers was raised to Rs. 40 and a corresponding improvement was made in the higher grades. The claims of teachers in Primary Schools also received attention. The pension scheme referred to in the Administration Report for the year 1912-13 was brought into force: this scheme not only provides pension for all masters drawing Rs. 11 and upwards per mensem, but also provides for the raising of the pay of all certificated teachers to pensionable level.

In 1913 the Government of India announced their intention of establishing Universities in those Provinces in which a demand had arisen for separate institutions of that type. It has been decided that the University for the Central Provinces and Berar should be an institution of the teaching type situated at Nagpur with affiliated Colleges in other parts of the Province, and a representative Committee has been constituted to frame the details of the scheme. The report of this Committee is awaited.

Collegiate education.

162. There was an increase of 178 in the number of students taking advantage of collegiate education. It was decided to establish a Government College at Amraoti and a site was selected, but detailed proposals were delayed by the necessity of awaiting a decision as to the general outlines of the University, in which the College will eventually be incorporated. Good progress was made in the construction of the new buildings for the Jubbulpore Arts College, and it was decided to take the Morris College under the direct control of Government and to expend the Memorial Funds at present partially devoted to its upkeep on various

educational objects, including the award of scholarships for university education The staffs of various Colleges were strengthened during the year in the Morris College by the addition of an Indian Education Service Professor, in the Hislop College by the addition of a European Professor of high academic standing and in the College of Science by the appointment of an additional Professor of Chemistry and Demonstrator. The scholastic performances of Arts Colleges during the year were satisfactory, and there were indications that the advantages of corporate academic life in College hostels were becoming more fully appreciated.

Secondary education—Boys.

163. The demand for Secondary education continued to exceed the supply, which was limited by the shortage in the number of qualified teachers available. One new High School and eight new Middle Schools were, however, established and steps were taken to open the fifth standard of the promised Government High Schools at Damoh, Betul and Khamgaon. The total number of pupils in the Secondary stage of education increased by 829. There was a large increase in the number of pupils who appeared for the Matriculation examination of the Allahabad University, and the percentage of passes rose from 39 in 1913 to 42 in 1914. Important changes were made in the regulations for the award of scholarships to Middle and High Schools. A public competitive examination called the Middle School Scholarship examination was instituted on the same lines as the High School Scholarship examination, and both examinations are now held solely for the award of scholarships.

Primary education—Boys.

164. The number of pupils under instruction in the primary stage of education exhibited a rise of 26,495. A sum of over Rs. 58,000 was allotted from the Government of India grant for 1913-14 for the opening of new Primary Schools, and 259 schools were actually opened from this allotment. Five additional Deputy Inspectors were appointed to cope with the extra inspection work caused by the expansion in the number of schools and scholars.

Training Schools.

165. The Training College at Jubbulpore continued to do excellent work, and teachers who passed through the institution showed unmistakably the beneficial results of their training. Steps were taken to elaborate a scheme to deal with the vexed question of the future of the Normal Schools. A re-training class was opened at Jubbulpore and accommodation was provided for similar classes at Amraoti and Nagpur. A special class was held, as in previous years, at the College of Science for the training of Science teachers.

Female education.

166. There was no increase in the total number of institutions for Indian girls, but the number of pupils in those institutions rose from 17,653 to 18,524. The number of girls reading in boys' schools also rose from 13,684 to 15,690. The increase in numbers was most marked in the primary stage of education. There were many signs of growing interest in higher female education in Berar and a noteworthy feature of the year's work was the progress of the Amraoti Girls' High School. Two candidates appeared for the Matriculation examination and one passed.

Schools for Europeans.

167. There was an increase of about 100 in the average strength of Primary Schools and a slight falling off in High and Middle Schools. From the Government of India recurring grant for 1913-14 a sum of Rs. 18,000 was allotted for European Schools, and further grants for buildings were sanctioned from the non-recurring grant of 1½ lakhs of rupees. An important problem which will engage the attention of the newly-appointed Inspector of European Schools is the provision of education for children who are at present debarred from its benefits by poverty or by residence in a schoolless area. During the year provincial grants and scholarships on behalf of orphans and poor children amounted to Rs. 18,587: from this sum help was given to 182 children.

Muhammadan education.

168. There was an increase of nearly 2,000 in the total number of Muhammadan pupils in all classes of schools. In the Collegiate stage there was a slight rise, but there was no marked advance in secondary education. In female education numerical progress was made. From the 1913-14 Government of India recurring grant a sum of Rs. 10,000 was allotted for Muhammadan Schools: the greater part of this amount was devoted to the construction of a hostel for the Muhammadan High School at Amraoti.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

3—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

Publications.

169. During 1913-14 the number of publications amounted to 103 as against 111 in 1912-13 and 162 in 1911-12. This decrease was due mainly to a falling off in publications of a religious character from 48 in the previous year to 29 in the year under review, and partly also to the greater care exercised in registering publications in conformity with the statutory orders. Of the books registered, 6 were in English, 50 in Hindi, 32 in Marathi, 1 in Urdu, 8 in Urdu written in Nagri characters, 1 in Sanskrit, 1 in English-Sanskrit, 2 in Sanskrit-Hindi and 2 in Sanskrit-Marathi. There were 29 religious books, 7 poetical, 7 geographical, 6 scientific and 2 historical; 2 were works of fiction, 6 were books on languages, and the rest dealt with miscellaneous subjects. Twenty-six books were of an educational character.

Vernacular Press.

170. The number of newspapers and periodicals published in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year under report was 29 as against 28 in the preceding year. During the year 5 papers dropped out of existence and 6 new papers were started. Among the new papers, the *Hitavada*, an English Weekly, and the *Maharashtra*, a Marathi Weekly, both published at Nagpur, are organs of the moderate and the national schools in Indian politics, respectively, and as such possess an appreciable amount of influence among the public. Another important new paper started during the year was the *Prabha*, a Hindi illustrated magazine published at Khandwa. It is a high class literary periodical and leaves very little to be desired from the point of view of printing and general arrangement. Of the old-established papers, the *Marwari* (Nagpur), the *Kartavya* (Amraoti), the *Berar Samachar* (Akola) and the *Bharat* (Amraoti) exercised an appreciable influence on public opinion, though they did not increase their circulation. The *Hitakarini*, a Hindi magazine published at Jubbulpore, maintained its popularity among the Hindi-speaking public in general and the student class in particular.

LITERARY SOCIETIES

4—LITERARY SOCIETIES

171. The number of Literary and Scientific Societies decreased from 55 to 54. Almost all were subscription libraries and depended for their support chiefly on subscriptions from members. Seven societies received grants from Government, while Municipalities contributed towards the maintenance of 9.

ARTS AND SCIENCES

5—ARTS AND SCIENCES

Arts and Sciences.

172. The Nagpur Museum continued to improve and the increase in the numbers of visitors was well maintained. Additions were made to the Natural History collection: birds, to which most attention has been so far paid, are now in many cases exhibited in natural surroundings, and drawings and sections are displayed illustrative of the natural features on which they are classified. The rooms are too small for the display of the large fauna for which the Province is famous, and the building has become inadequate for a Provincial Museum. Proposals to remedy this defect were under consideration, but no definite decision had been reached at the close of the year. The Raipur Museum was visited by 92,825 persons during the year. The number of students at the Weaving School attached to the Museum increased owing to the provision of larger stipends, and now that a Textile expert has arrived from England, real improvement may be expected.

CHAPTER VIII

ARCHÆOLOGY

[For further information, see Archæological Survey of India (New Series), Vol. XIX.]

ARCHÆOLOGY

173. The expenditure of the Public Works Department on monuments and antiquities during the year 1913-14 amounted to Rs. 12,296. A portion of the old town wall at Chanda was completed at a cost of Rs. 1,043, but another length of the wall was damaged by high floods, and it is doubtful whether much more money should be spent on this work of restoration. The remainder of the allotment was spent on repairs to temples and other buildings in various districts of the Province.

CHAPTER IX

MISCELLANEOUS

1—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

Ecclesiastical.

174. The Diocese of Nagpur was formed in 1903 and includes the whole of the Central Provinces, Berar, the district of Sambalpur in Orissa, Central India, Ajmere-Merwara and all stations in Rajputana except Mount Abu. There were no changes during the year.

2—STATIONERY

STATIONERY

175. The total value of stationery supplied to offices and courts from the Central Depôt, including cost of carriage as well as of stationery purchased locally, rose from Rs. 85,607 in 1912-13 to Rs. 98,700 in 1913-14, an increase of 15 per cent. The excess expenditure was most noticeable in the Settlement, Police and Jail Departments. In the case of the first of these, it is explained that the number of districts under Settlement rose from 3 to 5. The excess in the last was due to the increased indents of various other departments for forms. The charges on account of conveyance of forms also increased from Rs. 5,618 to Rs. 6,806.

The value of Stationery supplied to printing presses, including the cost of carriage, rose from Rs. 96,288 in 1912-13 to Rs. 1,11,255 in 1913-14, the percentage of increase being 16.

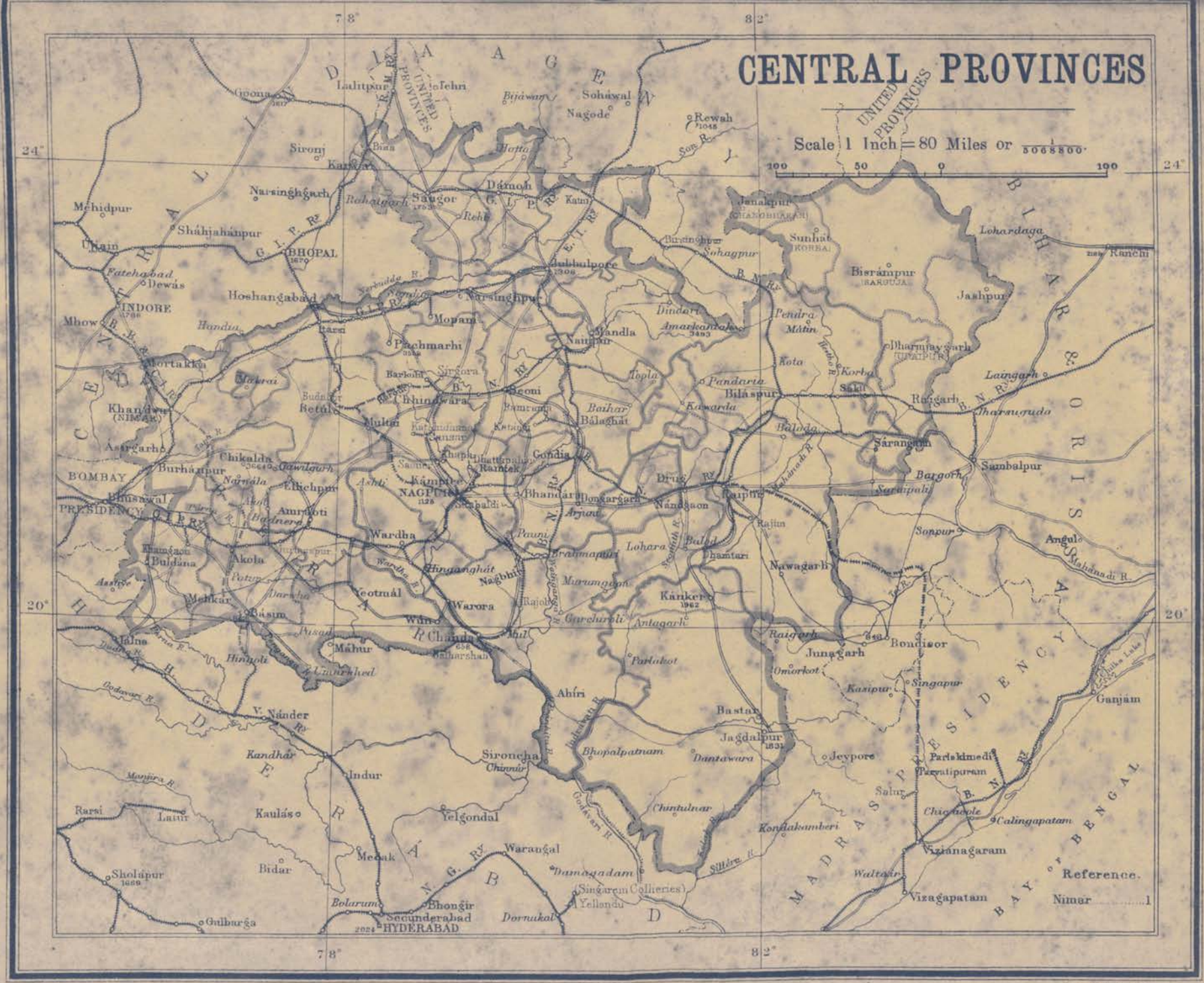
3—GENERAL

GENERAL

Registration of rainfall.

176. There were in all 175 raingauges in the Central Provinces and Berar, of which 14 were observatories under the control of the Imperial Meteorological Department, 20 were maintained by the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department and 16 were in the Feudatory States, while the remainder (125) were under the control of the Director of Land Records. During the year one new raingauge was established at Amarwara in the Chhindwara district, where a new tahsil had been opened, while the raingauge at Ellichpur city in the Amraoti district was abolished. The raingauges at Katangi (Balaghat), Tejgarh (Damoh), Sausar (Chhindwara) and Sihora (Jubbulpore) were removed to more suitable sites. All except nine of the raingauges were inspected during the year.

Govt. Press, Nagpur:—No. 1997, Civil. Sectt.—9-3-15—400.


CENTRAL PROVINCES
Scale 1 Inch = 80 Miles or 1/5068800
100 50 0 100
UNITED PROVINCES
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY
MADRAS PRESIDENCY
BAY OF BENGAL
Reference.
Nimar
Lalitpur
Jhansi
Sohawal
Nagode
Rewah
Sironj
Narsinghgarh
Saugor
Damoh
Mehidpur
Shahjahanpur
Ujain
BHOPAL
Fatehabad
Dewas
Hoshangabad
Narsinghpur
INDORE
Mhow
Handia
Mopani
Pachmarhi
Mortakka
Barkoti
Sirsora
Seoni
Chhindwara
Khandwa (NIMAR)
Betul
Multai
Asirgarh
Chikalda
Burhanpur
Gawilgarh
Narnala
Ellichpur
Bhusawal
Amraoti
Wardha
Ramgaon
Buldana
Akola
Assigarh
Patur
Mehkar
Basim
Jalna
Hingoli
Umarkhed
Mahur
Maharshan
Nander
Kandhar
Indur
Rarsi
Latur
Kauláso
Yelgondal
Medak
Bidar
Sholapur
Gulburga
Bolarum
Secunderabad
HYDERABAD
Bhongir
Warangal
Damagadam
(Singareni Collieries)
Yellandu
Dornakal
Sironcha
Chinnur
Ahiri
Bastar
Jagdalpur
Bhopalpatnam
Dantawara
Jeypore
Kondakamberi
Chintulnar
Sillere R.
Waltair
Vizagapatam
Vizianagaram
Chicacole
Calingapatam
Parlakimedi
Parvatipuram
Salur
Ganjam
Singapur
Kasipur
Bondisor
Raigarh
Junagarh
Omorkot
Parlakot
Kanker
Antagarh
Garchiroli
Nawagarh
Rajim
Raipur
Drug
Nandgaon
Bhandara
Ramtek
Nagpur
Kamptee
Umrer
Nagbhir
Brahmapuri
Lohara
Chamtari
Pauni
Arjuni
Hinganghát
Maramgaon
Rajoli
Wainganga R.
Wardha R.
Penganga R.
Pranhita R.
Godavari R.
Indravati R.
Mahanadi R.
Ib R.
Hasdeo R.
Arpa R.
Lilagar R.
Kelo R.
Jonk R.
Son R.
Rihand R.
Kanhar R.
Gopad R.
Banas R.
Sukri R.
Kaimur
Rohtasgarh
Rehti
Bijawar
Harta P.
Kami
Bilhari
Sohagpur
Binaichpur
Sunhat (KOREA)
Bisrampur (SARGUJA)
Jashpur
Lohardaga
Ranchi
Pendra
Mátin
Amarkantak
3493
Dharmjaygarh (JUNAPUR)
Laingarh
Jharsuguda
Rairgarh
Sakti
Korba
Kota
Topla
Pandaria
Bilaspur
Kawarda
Baloda
Sarangarh
Sambalpur
Bargarh
Saraipali
Sonpur
Angul
Mahanadi R.
Baihar
Bálaghát
Katangi
Lohara
Balod
Chamtari

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR

FOR THE YEAR

1914-15

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1914-15

PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY

Introduction.

The reports on which this review of the Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar is based relate to the several different periods specified at the head of each section in Part II, and the various periods of 12 months to which the different sections of this report refer cover in all a period of 23 months, beginning on the 1st August 1913 and ending on the 30th June 1915.

General.

2. The monsoon of 1914 began well and the good sowing conditions resulted in a large expansion of the area sown with kharif crops. During July, August and September the rain was sufficient and well distributed and the prospects of the kharif crops were excellent. The rice crop in the Chhattisgarh Division, however, was damaged by insects and the outturn of the kharif harvest for the Province did not exceed the normal. The conditions were favourable for the sowing of the rabi crops, but cloudy weather during November, and short rainfall in October, seriously injured the young plants. The winter rains were on the whole unsatisfactory, and finally heavy storms of rain frequently accompanied by hail caused considerable damage at harvest time, and in the end the rabi harvest for the Province was only about 80 to 85 per cent of a normal crop. The outbreak of the war considerably diminished the volume of trade and assisted in keeping the prices of food-grains at a high level, but the prosperity of the Province was not seriously affected, although the fall in the price of cotton reacted unfavourably on conditions in the cotton districts and the poor rabi harvest told somewhat hardly on the people of the northern districts of the Province. The year was less healthy than that of 1913, as epidemics of cholera and plague caused heavy mortality, while the increase in the birth-rate was only slight. The relations of the people with the officers of Government remained excellent throughout the Province. The outbreak of the war in Europe gave the people an opportunity of demonstrating their loyalty and good-will towards Government; offers of assistance were freely made and the appeal for subscriptions to the Imperial Indian Relief Fund met with a gratifying response.

Administration.

3. The Hon'ble Sir Benjamin Robertson, K.C.S.I, K.C.M.G., C.I.E., I.C.S., LL.D., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, from the 9th April 1914 till the close of the year under report. In the earlier part of the year Sir Benjamin Robertson was on deputation in South Africa in connection with the enquiry into the grievances of Indians resident in the Union, and the office of Chief Commissioner was held by the Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Crump, C.S.I., I.C.S.

Legislation.

4. The first meeting of the Central Provinces Legislative Council was held on the 17th August 1914. The Council was composed of fifteen nominated members of whom eleven were officials, and ten elected members. During the year two bills were passed, and five bills, of which the most important were the Central Provinces Excise Bill, the Central Provinces Slaughter of Animals Bill, and the Central Provinces Land Revenue Bill, were introduced.

Feudatory States.

5. During the year the Feudatory Chief of Sakti died and was succeeded by his adopted son, Raja Liladhar Singh. Owing to a monsoon which gave sufficient and evenly distributed rain, the harvests were in general good, and the condition of the people remained satisfactory in spite of a continued rise in the price of food-grains. The land revenue was for the most part easily and fully realized; only four States found it necessary to grant remissions or suspensions to any considerable extent. Trade was somewhat affected by the war, but employment was ample, wages tended upwards, and the year was normally healthy and free from any serious epidemic. In a majority of the States there was an increase in the number of criminal offences reported, but the number of admissions to jails decreased on the whole. Settlement operations were carried on in Bastar, Raigarh and Khairagarh, and a boundary dispute between the Nandgaon State and Drug District was decided. The financial condition of all the States was satisfactory.

Condition of the People.

6. The agricultural season of 1914-15 was, on the whole, disappointing. In spite of ample rainfall up to the end of September, the outturn of the autumn crops did not exceed the normal, while the spring crops suffered considerably on account of a subsequent deficiency in rain. Owing to the outbreak of the war the previous year's high prices of food-stuffs continued, a slight fall in the price of rice being counterbalanced by a rise in that of wheat, but, except in the Jubbulpore and Narsinghpur Districts where two successive crop failures caused some depression, and in the cotton districts where serious loss resulted from the low prices of cotton, the condition of cultivators and labourers was satisfactory. The year, though less healthy than 1913, was on the whole not markedly below the average. The birth-rate rose from 49·26 to 51·37 and the death-rate from 30·28 to 36·69 per mille. This increase in the death-rate, which leaves it still below the quinquennial mean, was mainly due to plague and cholera which were epidemic during the year.

Realisation of Revenue.

7. The total current demand on account of land revenue proper in the agricultural year 1913-14 amounted to over 1,90 lakhs of rupees, the increase of three lakhs of rupees over the figure of the previous year being due to Settlement changes. There was also due for collection a sum of over three-quarters of a lakh suspended in the previous year. Owing to the unfavourable agricultural year the total remissions amounted to nearly one lakh of rupees, while over twelve lakhs were suspended. Excluding a quarter of a lakh which remained uncollected owing to exceptional causes, the net demand was recovered practically in full with little resort to coercive processes. Owing to the failure of the crops, the advances made under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and Land Improvements Act increased from five-and-a-half to twenty-two-and-three-quarters lakhs. Excluding remissions and suspensions, which it was found necessary to grant on a fairly liberal scale, the total collections were satisfactory.

Survey and Settlement.

8. The local Traverse Survey Party worked in seven districts and the traverse amounted to 1,781 miles of survey in 434 villages in addition to sub-traverse in

342 villages. The orders of the Government of India were received on the final reports on the Settlement of the Wardha and Bilaspur (Khalsa) Districts, and the final report for the Damoh District, and a forecast report on the re-settlement of the Balaghat District, were submitted. Settlement operations were in progress in five districts, and map correction preparatory to Settlement in one district.

Land Records.

9. The revision of the patwari halkabandi in two districts resulted in a net reduction of five patwaris. The number of punishments inflicted on patwaris showed a considerable decrease, which was partly due to the abolition of fining in the preceding year. A scheme for the amalgamation of the cadres of Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records with those of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars was worked out and submitted, while in Berar four Assistant Superintendents of Land Records and twenty-three Revenue Inspectors were added on account of the introduction and maintenance of the Record-of-Rights.

Wards' Estates.

10. At the beginning of the year there were seventy-three estates under the management of the Court of Wards. Five estates were relinquished during the year, while six estates were newly brought under management. The total gross income of the estates amounted to over sixteen lakhs. Owing to the unfavourable agricultural season, out of the rental demand of over seven-and-a-half lakhs of rupees, Rs. 56,691 was suspended and an unsuspended balance of Rs. 39,600 remained due at the close of the year. A large number of estates increased their receipts from forests, but owing to the want of trained staff, the larger forests were not fully exploited. The gross expenditure amounted to over eleven-and-a-half lakhs of rupees. There was a small increase in the cost of management which absorbed fifteen per cent of the income of the estates. Rs. 1,02,691 was devoted to the liquidation of debts out of current income, and the total amount of debt was reduced from Rs. 8,21,310 to Rs. 6,90,256. Home-farm cultivation was carried on in thirty-eight estates with results which varied from a profit of Rs. 10 to a loss of Rs. 8-5-11 per acre. In spite of an unfavourable year, however, loss occurred in five estates only. The education of minor wards received due attention and the policy was continued of associating the older wards, as far as possible, in the management of their estates.

Police.

11. The number of offences reported to the Police was 38,974 as compared with 32,236 in the previous year. The increase was mainly under thefts and house-breakings, mostly of a petty nature, and was due largely to the disturbed economic conditions consequent on poor crops and the outbreak of the war, though in part also to the continued improvement in reporting. The Police had a successful year, and though progress is still slow, the relations between the Police and the public showed steady improvement, particularly in the districts of Berar. There was a slight increase in the percentage of cases investigated and of successful prosecutions. Discretion in the matter of taking up or refusing investigation was wisely exercised, and the higher standard of honesty and consideration displayed in the conduct of investigations was well maintained. There was a decrease in the number of recruits enlisted and an increase in both resignations and desertions; the main reason for this state of affairs is the inadequate pay of the rank and file, and a scheme for a radical revision of the pay and prospects of the lower ranks was considered during the year.

Criminal Justice.

12. The total number of offences reported fell from 44,332 to 43,896. This is the first decrease to be recorded since 1910, and as it was chiefly in

complaint cases it is probable that the high prices due largely to the war made the public reluctant to spend money on petty criminal litigation. The number of cases dismissed under Section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code rose from 8,779 to 9,017. The percentage of cases disposed of by Stipendiary Magistrates was 71·5, the remainder being dealt with by Honorary and Special Magistrates. The average duration of trials in all Courts decreased from 18·9 days to 18·3. There was a small decrease in the number of appeals for decision in all Courts, while there was little change in the proportion of cases in which the sentence of the Lower Court was upheld. The percentages of convicted persons sentenced to whipping, fine and imprisonment were 3·4, 73·7 and 22·9 respectively.

Prisons.

13. The number of prisoners admitted to Jail rose from 12,136 to 12,347, and there was an increase in the daily average Jail population from 3,584 to 3,846. This increase in Jail population together with the frequent changes in the superior staff owing to the war led to a rise of thirteen per cent in the number of Jail offences. The health of prisoners was exceptionally good; the ratio of deaths per mille falling to 12·48, which is the lowest figure yet recorded. The average cost to Government of each prisoner fell from Rs. 109-12-10 to Rs. 106-15-1, while the average profit per head of the number sentenced to labour was Rs. 16-8-8 against Rs. 14-9-2 in the previous year, and the savings effected by the employment of prison labour substantially increased.

Civil Justice.

14. The fourth Judge in the Judicial Commissioner's Court, who was at first appointed temporarily, continued to work throughout the year. The number of suits instituted fell from 100,200 to 97,622, and their value from 246 lakhs of rupees to 197 lakhs. It appears that the financial crisis of 1913 and the outbreak of the war made the people less willing to embark on litigation. The average value of the suits in Berar remained stationary, but in the Central Provinces, very largely owing to the institution of a single suit valued at 40 lakhs in the previous year, it declined considerably. There was a general reduction in the number of pending suits, though in the Judicial Commissioner's Court the pending file showed a substantial increase. There was a further fall in the duration of original suits, while the average duration of regular appeals increased.

Registration.

15. The total number of registrations fell from 92,650 to 92,601; but the aggregate value of the property affected in the whole Province rose from 513 lakhs to 566 lakhs of rupees. In the first eight months of the year an increase of five per cent in the number of registrations as compared with those of the corresponding period of the previous year had occurred, but the statistics of the last four months were adversely affected by the war. Seventy-five per cent of sales of villages were in favour of agriculturists against seventy-four per cent in 1913.

Municipal Administration.

16. The number of Municipalities remained unaltered, while the only change in constitution was in Wardha, where a new Committee came into existence at the beginning of the year. The total income, excluding debt and extraordinary receipts, rose from Rs. 31,62,928 to Rs. 33,09,175; if Government contributions be left out of consideration, however, the real income from Municipal sources decreased by nearly 8 per cent. Octroi receipts showed a fall of about a lakh and quarter and other taxes of Rs. 20,000. Government contributions, amounting to more than 6½ lakhs of rupees, included grants of over 4 lakhs for sanitary purposes and Rs. 1,15,000 for expenditure on primary school buildings. The

actual expenditure rose from Rs. 31,38,807 to Rs. 36,59,336. Conservancy and sanitation accounted for an increase of Rs. 21,000 and education for an increase of Rs. 90,000. The total closing balances amounted to Rs. 11,72,984, a decrease of about 2 lakhs of rupees. The large balances in some Municipalities are due to the accumulation of a reserve already earmarked for specific objects. Seventeen Municipalities and one Notified Area were indebted to Government on account of loans to the extent of Rs. 24,13,422; their financial position is in all cases satisfactory.

District Councils and Local Boards.

17. The only important constitutional change was the creation of a Local Board for the Amarwara tahsil in the Chhindwara District. Income and expenditure rose by Rs. 3,74,000 and Rs. 5,38,000 respectively. Government contributions for Education and Civil Works exceeded those of the preceding year by Rs. 4,35,000. The income under Local Rates increased by Rs. 32,000, while that under Cattle Pounds fell by Rs. 24,000. There was an increase of expenditure under each of the three important heads, "Education," "Medical and Sanitation" and "Civil Works." The percentage of total income expended on Public Instruction was 29 in the Central Provinces and 33 in Berar. Closing balances increased in all but eight districts; the largest are still to be found in the Berar Districts, where steps are being taken to utilise the surplus funds.

Agriculture.

18. The formerly overburdened charge of the Southern Circle was relieved by the formation of the cotton country, consisting of Berar and the neighbouring districts of the Central Provinces, into the new Western Circle under a third Deputy Director. The need for financial economy prevented the inauguration of any large project, but during the year it was possible to open a new farm at Betul and to start another on a small scale at Kawardha. The season was on the whole a favourable one and some useful results were obtained on the eight Government farms by way both of research and of demonstration. The work of demonstrating to agriculturists the increased profits to be derived from the employment of improved implements and methods of agriculture, and the use of properly selected seed, was carried on with unremitting energy in all the circles. The value of co-operation in agriculture was illustrated by the production and distribution of a large quantity of selected wheat and cotton seed by means of Seed Farms and Agricultural Unions. The work of the Agricultural College suffered considerably from a serious outbreak of plague which necessitated closure of the College for seven weeks, but the results achieved in spite of adverse circumstances were creditable.

Co-operative Credit.

19. The effects of the banking crisis of the previous year, the bad agricultural season in the northern districts, and the outbreak of the war combined to make the conditions of the year 1914-15 exceptionally unfavourable to the Co-operative Credit movement. In spite of these disturbing factors, however, the movement made steady progress. The number of Societies increased from 2,213 to 2,297, the membership from 40,415 to 44,084 and working capital from 65 to 72½ lakhs of rupees. The Provincial Bank had a successful year: its working capital rose from twelve to thirteen lakhs, deposits from five to nine lakhs, and a dividend of four per cent was declared. The Central Banks exercised, on the whole, a wise discretion in adapting their demands for repayment and their treatment of applications for assistance to the difficult agricultural conditions of the year. Their number increased from twenty-eight to twenty-nine, while their working capital rose from Rs. 25,86,613 to Rs. 29,37,460. The number of Rural Societies rose from 2,083 to 2,154 and their membership from 34,242 to 36,981.

Veterinary Department.

20. The year was a healthy one for cattle, and the mortality from rinderpest, the most widely destructive of the epidemic diseases, was less than a third of that in the previous year. The calls for inoculation were therefore less numerous than usual, and the number of animals inoculated fell from 94,690 to 47,285. Excluding inoculations, however, nearly a quarter of a million cases of all kinds were treated. The experiments with anthrax serum were a complete success, while with the provision of good accommodation at the new laboratories erected for the Agriculture Department at Nagpur, facilities for research and for the examination of specimens were greatly increased. The permanent appointment of a second Superintendent for the Provinces was sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India, and the Administration has since the close of the year given provisional sanction to a higher scale of pay for Veterinary Assistants. The expenditure incurred by the Veterinary Department during the year fell from Rs. 2,59,630 to Rs. 2,10,555.

Weather and Crops.

21. The general average rainfall in the Central Provinces in 1914 was 47·31 inches as compared with a forty-seven years' average of 48·22 inches, and in Berar 41·47 inches against a twenty-one years' average of 31·45. The favourable conditions at sowing time in the Central Provinces caused an expansion of the area under kharif crops by 714,547 acres, or by six per cent, but in Berar there was a decrease of 88,910 acres, or one per cent, owing to the ploughing up of a considerable area sown with cotton which had been washed away or damaged by excessive rain. In the Central Provinces the area placed under juar, cotton and til rose considerably, while the rice area receded by one per cent. The rabi area of the Central Provinces and Berar increased by 828,372, or eleven per cent. The area under wheat and wheat-gram in the Central Provinces fell by three per cent from 3,287,906 to 3,202,151 acres, but the area under linseed increased by 291,385 acres, or thirty-two per cent.

Forests.

22. The area under the control of the Forest Department decreased by seventeen square miles. Of the total forest area of 19,667 square miles, 11,360 square miles were managed under regularly sanctioned working-plans, while new plans were in preparation for 5,830 square miles. The total number of forest offences fell, and the reduction took place under all heads of offences except one. Fire-protection was attempted over 11,705 square miles, and 98 per cent of this area was successfully protected at an average cost of Rs. 9-7-0 per square mile. The area subject to systematic exploitation increased by 4,476 acres. The number of cattle grazed in Government Forest fell by 207,976, the incidence for the Province as a whole being 2·8 acres per head, but in spite of the decrease in numbers there was a large increase in the revenue actually realised owing to the introduction of enhanced grazing rates in Berar. The gross revenue rose from Rs. 32,69,894 in the previous year to Rs. 32,73,539, while the expenditure fell from Rs. 20,07,883 to Rs. 18,80,927.

Mines and Quarries.

23. Two new coal mines were opened during the year, raising the total number of collieries in the Provinces from five to seven. The Provincial output of coal rose from 235,650 tons in 1913 to 244,745 tons, and the general average price at the pit-head was Rs. 4-7-3 per ton, or a few annas higher than that of the previous year. The year opened with considerable activity in manganese mining, and the number of mines increased by ten. The outbreak of the war, however, gave a serious set-back to the industry, and the closure of American and Continental markets, as well as the higher freights and insurance charges prevailing,

restricted the output and affected prices. The Provincial output fell from 550,595 to 510,936 tons and its value from Rs. 31,88,390 to Rs. 22,02,272. The extension and full working throughout the year of the Tata Iron and Steel Company's concession at Lohara in the Chanda District raised the quantity of iron extracted from 844 to 16,523 tons. The average number of persons employed in mines was 18,294 against 16,200 in 1913.

Manufactures.

24. The new Factory Act was in force in both the Central Provinces and Berar throughout the year. The low price of cotton and the outbreak of the war caused the total number of factories to fall from 487 in 1913 to 438, of which thirty-eight remained closed during the year. The total number of operatives employed was 47,159 against 48,842 in the previous year.

Trade.

25. Omitting animals and treasure, the total rail-borne traffic of the year amounted to $56\frac{1}{2}$ million maunds valued at $28\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees, as compared with $74\frac{3}{4}$ million maunds valued at $38\frac{3}{4}$ crores of rupees in the preceding year. This large decline both in quantity and value is attributable to the dislocation of trade caused by the outbreak of the war. The bulk of imports decreased from $25\frac{3}{4}$ to 25 million maunds and the value fell from $13\frac{3}{4}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees. The principal decreases were under metals, brass, copper, commercial forms of wrought iron and steel, machinery and hardware and cutlery. Exports were even more seriously affected; their bulk fell from forty-nine million maunds to thirty-one-and-a-half and their value from twenty-five to sixteen crores of rupees. The chief decreases were under the heads of raw cotton, grain and pulses, manganese ore and oilseeds. The great fall in the price of cotton caused much of the year's crop to be held up in the hope of obtaining better prices, and in the case of grain and pulses the decline in export was almost entirely due to the nervousness of traders who held up stocks, while the decrease in the export of manganese ore was due to the closure of the Central European markets and the lack of sea transport facilities.

Public Works.

26. The year was one of great activity in the Public Works Department, and the expenditure, which amounted to over eighty-seven lakhs, was the largest hitherto incurred in the Province. The outlay on Provincial works accounted for $73\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of the total, and of this sum Rs. 41,82,217 was spent on original works. Large sums were spent on buildings for almost every Department of the Administration: in particular, the requirements of the Police Department absorbed nearly four-and-a-half lakhs, and those of the Department of Law and Justice nearly three lakhs. The expenditure on communications was nearly $30\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, including over $13\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs for original works. Satisfactory progress was made in the construction of important new roads and in the building of bridges and causeways intended to keep important lines of communication open in all seasons. Of the Sanitary works undertaken by the Public Works Department the most notable is the Nagpur Drainage Scheme, with which good progress was made.

Irrigation.

27. The monsoon gave ample and well-distributed rain, and lessened the demand for irrigation. In consequence the area irrigated during the year by the Irrigation Department decreased from 71,021 to 44,405 acres. The total revenue demand was Rs. 1,69,421, of which Rs. 1,41,625 was collected during the year. The expenditure on Protective works was $18\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs, on Productive works 26 lakhs and on Minor works 9 lakhs. The difficulty of securing an adequate supply of labour was largely overcome by better arrangements for importing

labour from districts where a surplus existed, and excellent progress in construction was made on nearly all the projects. The head works of the Mahanadi Canal were completed during the year, while those of the Wainganga Canal were nearing completion.

Revenue and Finance.

28. Imperial revenue in the year 1914-15 amounted to 118 lakhs of rupees as compared with 112 lakhs in the preceding year, while expenditure remained at the same figure, 70 lakhs. The increase of six lakhs in receipts is accounted for by a decrease of nearly nine-and-a-half lakhs under the head "Transfers between Imperial and Provincial" owing to the absence of non-recurring assignments and the reduction of the assignment in connection with the Famine Relief Scheme. This decrease counterbalanced decreases which occurred under all other heads except "Land Revenue," "Income-tax" and "Other heads." Provincial Revenue, including an opening balance of 109½ lakhs, amounted to 402½ lakhs, and expenditure to 305 lakhs, leaving a closing balance of 97½ lakhs. In actual revenue, however, there was a decrease of 13¾ lakhs. Apart from a fall of 9½ lakhs under the head "Transfers between Imperial and Provincial," the chief decreases were 1½ lakhs under "Stamps," 4¼ lakhs under "Excise" and nearly three-quarters of a lakh under "Registration," but there were also increases under several heads, of which the most important were half a lakh under "Land Revenue" and over three-quarters of a lakh under "Forests." The increase in expenditure was distributed under all heads except that of "Reduction or Avoidance of Debt," the largest increases being under "Civil Works," "Irrigation Minor Works" and "Education."

Vital Statistics.

29. The healthiness of the year 1913 was reflected in the birth-rate of the year 1914, which rose to 51·37 per mille, the increase being shared by most of the districts of the Province. The death-rate, however, rose from 30·28 to 36·69 per mille, but was still below the quinquennial mean of 37·05. The proportion of infantile to total mortality was sixty per cent, an increase of three per cent as compared with the previous year, when the figures were exceptionally good. Among the chief diseases, small-pox alone claimed fewer victims than last year. The ravages of cholera were particularly severe, while serious epidemics of plague occurred in Nagpur, Saugor and Hoshangabad, spreading subsequently to other districts. The number of inoculations against plague rose from 2,046 to 7,994. The fever mortality increased by 2·81 per mille, and dysentery and diarrhœa were also responsible for an unusually high mortality.

Emigration.

30. With the return of more stable economic conditions there was a large decline in recruitment. In the mining and cotton tracts the local demand for labour more than fully absorbed the supply, and recruiting from outside went on for the manganese mines. In consequence the number of recruiting agents fell from 5,029 to 4,539 and the number of coolies recruited from 8,063 to 6,110. Moreover, by far the large proportion of coolies recruited for Assam came from the Native States adjoining the Central Provinces.

Medical Relief.

31. There was a net increase in the number of hospitals and dispensaries during the year from 272 to 273. Of this number 29 were maintained by the State, 166 by Local Bodies and 29 by Railways, the remainder being either private or State-aided institutions. The total number of patients treated at dispensaries was 1,746,424 as compared with 1,674,980 in the preceding year which was exceptionally healthy. The number of surgical operations performed rose again from 47,622 to 49,029. The total receipts increased by nearly three lakhs to Rs. 14,19,260. More than half of this increase

was due to an increase in the Government contribution, but it is satisfactory that private subscriptions showed a further increase of Rs. 22,041. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 6,29,549 to Rs. 9,10,185, buildings and repairs accounting for an increase of over one-and-a-half lakhs.

Sanitation.

32. Good progress was made during the year both in the construction of works and in the investigation of new projects. The most important water-works schemes in connection with which construction work was carried on were those of Akola, Arvi, Buldana and Damoh. The main drainage schemes on which work was in progress were those of Wardha, Nagpur and Harda. The Wardha drainage scheme was completed, while the outlay on the Nagpur project up to the end of the year amounted to seven-and-three-quarters lakhs of rupees. The year was one of increased activity in Municipal towns, and the Sanitary Board performed a large amount of useful consultative work. The opening up of congested areas, the introduction of building rules and the construction of market stalls, public latrines and protected wells made steady progress. The provisions of the Village Sanitation Act were extended to six villages and withdrawn from one during the year.

Vaccination.

33. The total number of vaccination operations performed in British territory was 602,643 as compared with 622,376 in the preceding year. The decrease, which occurred in re-vaccinations only, was attributed to outbreaks of plague and to transfers of officers owing to the war. In Municipal towns the number of infants successfully vaccinated was 26,516, or 91 per cent of the children available, an increase of seven per cent over the preceding year. Owing to limited accommodation the Central Vaccine Depôt at Nagpur was unable to supply lymph on a large scale, but the special Depôt buildings, for which Government gave a grant of half a lakh of rupees, were under construction, and when they are complete, the supply of lymph will be extended to the whole Province. The total expenditure was Rs. 95,604 against Rs. 84,241 in the previous year, and the cost of each successful vaccination rose from Re. 0-2-3 to Re. 0-2-6. This increase was due to the improvement in the pay of the staff and to the additional establishment entertained at the Central Vaccine Depôt.

Education.

34. The cadre of the Indian Educational Service was strengthened by the addition of a third post of Head Master and two posts of Inspectors of Schools. The number of Circles will be increased to seven, and sanction has been given to the appointment of an Assistant Inspector for each Circle, the present number of these officers being only three. The pay of Assistant Inspectresses in the Provincial Educational Service and of the Head Mistress of the Girls' High School, Amraoti, was improved. Some personal allowances were also granted to officers in the Provincial Service pending the reorganisation of that Service. The year's figures show an increase of 210 in the number of schools, and 9,213 in the number of scholars. This increase was not, however, so large as that recorded in 1913-14. In the primary stage of education, where alone the decline in the rate of increase was noticeable, the presence of plague and cholera, and possibly to some extent financial depression resulting from the war, affected attendance, while habitual absentees were struck off the rolls and unwieldy classes were brought within the limits imposed by staff and accommodation. There was a marked increase in the number of Secondary Schools and scholars, particularly in Berar, where the demand for Secondary education is growing. Six new High Schools were opened and thirty-two new Middle Schools were brought under recognition by the Department.

In the matter of Collegiate education interest centred in the report of the Central Provinces and Berar University Committee, which was submitted to the Local Administration at the close of the year. The future development of the existing Colleges depends in large measure on the part assigned them in the scheme of the Provincial University, while the Colleges of the future will come into existence as definite parts of the proposed University. In these circumstances, it is inevitable that many problems in connection with Collegiate education should await the decision on the University scheme and that the Colleges should not be committed meanwhile to developments which may have no part in that scheme. The administration and progress of the Colleges, however, during the year were satisfactory, and an increase of 164 in the number of College students necessitated increases in the staff of all the Colleges. The growth of female education was well maintained. The number of pupils in institutions for Indian girls rose from 18,524 to 19,006, while there was an increase of thirty-eight in the strength of Anglo-Vernacular Middle and High Schools, and four candidates passed the Matriculation Examination.

PART II

CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

At pages 1 to 54 of the Administration Report for 1911-12 will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference :—

1—PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE AND CHIEF STAPLES

2—HISTORICAL SUMMARY

3—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION

4—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES

5—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

6—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY

7—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

8—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

2. The Hon'ble Sir Benjamin Robertson, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., I.C.S., LL.D., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, from the 9th April 1914 till the close of the year under report. In the earlier part of the year Sir Benjamin Robertson was on deputation in South Africa in connection with the enquiry into the grievances of Indians resident in the Union, and the office of Chief Commissioner was held by the Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Crump, C.S.I., I.C.S.

9—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

'Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1914.'

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

General.

3. During the year the Feudatory Chief of Sakti died and was succeeded by his adopted son, Raja Liladhar Singh. An heir was born to the Chief of Khairagarh. Raja Jawahir Singh, Feudatory Chief of Sarangarh, was nominated a member of the newly-constituted Central Provinces Legislative Council. The new Chief of Sakti was married and the Chief of Udaipur celebrated his second marriage. The senior Maharani Sahiba of Kanker died, and the Chief has, since the close of the year, celebrated his third marriage. The Chhuikhadan State remained under management during the year under report, but the Chief, Mahant Bhudhar Kishore Das, was installed shortly after its close. The minor Chief of Nandgaon joined the Rajkumar College, Raipur.

Rainfall and Crops.

4. The monsoon was well sustained and gave sufficient and evenly distributed rain, the aggregate rainfall in almost all States being higher than in the previous year, and there was some extension of the area under cultivation. Some loss was caused to the autumn crops by excessive rain in Bastar, Kanker, Surguja and Raigarh, and the spring crop in Kawardha was damaged by a hailstorm; with these exceptions harvests were in general good.

Trade.

5. Trade was generally normal except in Raigarh, where it was adversely affected by the war. Large quantities of rice and wheat were exported from Bastar to the neighbouring Native States and British districts, causing a local rise in prices. Labour was ample, a shortage being reported from Khairagarh State alone, and wages were good.

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

Condition of the people.

6. The year was peaceful and the general condition of the people was satisfactory. Prices of food-grains increased, but no distress was reported in any of the States except Kawardha, where the failure of the rice and kodon crops in 1913 necessitated forest concessions and remissions of revenue, relief being also afforded by the opening of tank-works. Agricultural loans to a considerable amount were advanced in Kawardha and Korea, and smaller sums in Raigarh and Sarangarh. In two or three States wages showed an upward tendency. Cholera appeared in some villages in Chhuikhadan and Nandgaon, but not in epidemic form. Outbreaks of small-pox occurred in Surguja, Raigarh and Chhuikhadan. In Raigarh also the mortality from malaria was again high. On the whole, however, the year was a normally healthy one. No epidemic cattle-disease was reported.

Finance.

7. The financial condition of the States was generally satisfactory. The sanction of the Government of India was received to a loan of Rs. 5,000 in favour of the Feudatory Chief of Changbhakar. The loan was granted for expenditure on agricultural loans, advances to facilitate the import of grain and the improvement of nistar tanks.

Land Revenue.

8. There was an increase in the land revenue demand of nine States. The demand was for the most part easily and fully realized, only four States finding it necessary to grant remissions or suspensions on anything but a trifling scale. In Surguja and Udaipur alone was recourse to coercive processes necessary.

Settlement.

9. Settlement operations were completed in five groups of the Jagdalpur tahsil of the Bastar State ; further Settlement operations in this State have been postponed on account of a decrease in the area under cultivation. In Raigarh a regular Settlement of the Tarapur Zamindari, consisting of 37 villages, was effected for a period of ten years. Settlement operations were also in progress in the Khairagarh State and announcement was made in 119 villages. A boundary dispute between the Nandgaon State and the Drug District was settled. The disputes between the Bastar State and the Madras Presidency, between the Jashpur State and Gangpur State in Bihar and Orissa and between the Khairagarh and Nandgaon States remained undecided at the close of the year.

Criminal Law and Justice.

10. The number of reported offences increased in nine of the States, while it decreased in five and remained the same in one. Sixteen cases of heinous crime were reported in four States, of which seven occurred in Kanker alone The number of Criminal and Civil Courts increased by four in Bastar and by one in Sakti. Criminal Courts in Nandgaon rose from three to five, while Civil Courts in Udaipur and Kawardha decreased by one each. The Feudatory Chief of Chhuikhadan was invested with the powers of a First Class Magistrate.

Jails.

11. The number of admissions to Jail showed a decrease on the whole as compared with the previous year, and the health of the prisoners was good. The new Jail buildings in Khairagarh were completed. In Sakti, in addition to aloe-pounding, oil-pressing and rope-making which formed the principal industries in the Jail, more profitable industries such as the manufacture of cloth, carpets and *tat-patti*, and an improved system of gardening were introduced during the year.

Forests.

12. With the exception of Bastar, Surguja, Jashpur and Chhuikhadan, all States showed an increase in forest income. A large increase in the Makrai State was due to the opening of a new coupe. In Bastar an area of 20 square miles was excluded from reserved forest. The reserves remained open during the year for the collection of dry wood, grass, leaves, fruits and roots. In Raigarh the license-fees were raised. Minor forest offences were again numerous in the Sarangarh State.

Excise.

13. In ten out of the fifteen States there was an increase in Excise revenue. A decrease in Makrai is attributed to the partial failure of the rabi crops, and in Raigarh the consumption of liquor is reported to be diminishing. In the same State, however, there was an increase of one in the number of liquor shops, while opium and ganja shops decreased by four. Two more liquor shops were open in Changbhakar. In Bastar Excise income increased, though the number of liquor shops decreased by twenty-three and the number of ganja shops by four.

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

The contract supply system was introduced in the course of the year in the Khairagarh and Nandgaon States and an Excise Inspector was appointed in Khairagarh to supervise its working. Smuggling of *baluchar* ganja from the Sambalpur district into the Raigarh and Sarangarh States continued, and the smuggling of ganja from the Rewah State into Changbhakar was again suspected. In Khairagarh seven persons were convicted of offences under the Excise Act.

Education.

14. Education continued to make good progress and there was a general rise in the number of pupils receiving instruction in the schools, only four States showing a slight fall. Four new schools were opened, one each in the Udaipur, Jashpur, Raigarh and Nandgaon States. A marked advance was made in female education, especially in the States of Kanker, Sarangarh and Nandgaon, in which the number of girls receiving instruction showed a considerable increase over the previous year. In all the States, except Khairagarh and Changbhakar, expenditure on education increased during the year. The Vernacular Middle School at Jagdalpur in the Bastar State was reduced to the status of a Hindi Branch School, while the English Middle School at Ambikapur in the Surguja State was raised to the status of a High School; a special building for this institution was under construction. In Chhuikhadan five new school buildings were erected in the course of the year. The new High School building in Raigarh was completed.

Public Works.

15. All the States, except Bastar and Jashpur, increased their expenditure on public works. In Raigarh the installation of water-works absorbed a large part of the total expenditure of the year, and other important buildings completed included a Town Hall, High School and Guest House. In Khairagarh twelve buildings of public utility were completed and some culverts were constructed on the Nandgaon-Khairagarh and Dongargarh-Pandaria roads.

10—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

The Season.

16. Although the monsoon of 1914 provided ample and evenly distributed rainfall up to the end of September, the outturn of kharif crops did not exceed the normal. This was due, partly to the injury caused by insects to the rice crop, partly to the comparative neglect of cotton cultivation which resulted from the fall in prices consequent on the outbreak of war. The rabi-sowing season was favourable, but insufficient rain in October, succeeded by cloudy weather in November, disappointed to some extent the hopes that had been entertained of a fine spring harvest. In almost all the northern districts the winter rains were poor, and these were followed, at harvest time, by heavy storms and hail which injured the gathered crops. Thus, in spite of a good start, the outturn of rabi crops for the Province as a whole was only 80 to 85 per cent of a normal crop. Owing to the outbreak of war the previous year's high prices of food-stuffs continued, a slight fall in the price of rice being counterbalanced by a rise in that of wheat. The prices of rice and juar eased off considerably after the harvest was gathered, but wheat remained very dear throughout the year. Fodder and water were sufficient throughout the Provinces during the year under report.

The effects of the war were, perhaps, most felt by the weaving classes in Nagpur and Burhanpur, which were seriously affected by the long-continued high prices of food-grains and by the reduction in the demand for, and the value of, their fabrics. Relief was, however, promptly organised for them. The economic pressure was also indicated by an increase in crime and a fall in the Excise revenue, while there was some contraction of employment in the cotton tracts. With regard to agriculture, the year was, on the whole, a disappointing one. Both in the Jubbulpore and Narsinghpur districts the agriculturists were in a somewhat depressed condition owing to two successive failures of the spring crops, notwithstanding the high prices they got for their produce. Elsewhere the condition of both agriculturists and labourers was generally satisfactory. The year, though less healthy than 1913, was on the whole not markedly below the average. The birth-rate rose from 49·26 to 51·37 and the death-rate from 30·28 to 36·69 per mille. This increase in the death-rate, which leaves it still below the quinquennial mean, was mainly due to plague and cholera which were epidemic during the year.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

REALISATION OF REVENUE

1—REALISATION OF REVENUE

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1913-14.]

Central Provinces.

17. The total malguzari demand of land revenue on the roll in the Central Provinces amounted to Rs. 99,43,610 against Rs. 96,42,639 in the preceding year, this increase of just over three lakhs of rupees being mainly due to the Settlement operations in the Saugor, Nimar and Nagpur districts. The demand on account of arrears of land revenue at the beginning of the year was Rs. 81,364; Rs. 52,629 was remitted, Rs. 14,690 suspended, and the balance was collected in full. The total remissions amounted to Rs. 96,845, chiefly in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions, and suspensions totalled Rs. 12,16,924, of which the Jubbulpore Division accounted for Rs. 6,93,704 and the Chhattisgarh Division for Rs. 4,61,329. The net demand for collection was Rs. 85,91,329, of which Rs. 85,64,444 was actually collected, leaving an unsuspended balance of Rs. 26,885. Of this sum the Jubbulpore district alone accounted for Rs. 20,084, being the amount due from a wealthy landowner in temporary difficulties owing to the financial crisis, while the arrears of Rs. 6,602 in the Saugor district were due to the Settlement operations in progress. With these two exceptions the current demand was realised almost in full, a result indicating that sufficient leniency was shown in the grant of suspensions and remissions. As regards land revenue not on the roll and miscellaneous land revenue there is little which calls for comment beyond an increase of over a lakh of rupees in miscellaneous revenue in the Nerbudda Division, which was mainly due to the sale by auction of a large number of escheated malik-makbuza plots in Nimar. In Narsinghpur a sum of nearly Rs. 80,000 was due from the Mohpani Colliery on account of royalty; this demand had gradually accumulated for several years, pending the Government of India's decision of the claim against the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. Orders have now been received for the collection of the amount due.

Berar.

18. There were no arrears from the previous year to be realised, but the demand on account of fixed collections increased from Rs. 91,16,774 to Rs. 91,21,570. This increase was mainly due to extension of cultivation and to appropriation of small plots to purposes other than agriculture. Apart from a sum of Rs. 475, which was remitted in a deserted area in the Melghat which has since been afforested, the whole demand was collected except a small item of Rs. 29, due from an absconding cultivator in the Yeotmal district, whose holding has been forfeited. In the fluctuating and miscellaneous collections there was an increase of Rs. 14,784, chiefly due to the realisation of measurement and *parcha* fees in connection with the Record-of-Rights.

Coercive processes.

19. In the Central Provinces the unsuspended revenue was collected with considerable ease judging by the number of coercive processes issued. There was a decrease as compared with the previous year under each class of process, while the number of sales after attachment was the same as last year. One village in the Nimar district was taken under direct management on the ground that its absentee proprietor was a habitual defaulter. In Berar too the substantial decrease in the number of coercive processes issued was satisfactory, the Buldana record again being a particularly good one.

20. The Government Loan Account of the Central Provinces and Berar (Principal) is shown in the following statement. The figures are for the financial year ending the 31st March 1915 :— **Government loans.**

Statement showing Loan Account of the Central Provinces and Berar (Principal) for the Financial year ending 31st March 1915.

	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.		Under the Land Improvement Loans Act.	
	With interest.	Without interest.	With interest.	Without interest.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Outstanding at the commencement of the year, *i. e.*, on the 1st April 1914.	5,86,795 2 2	42 12 9	13,94,743 6 0	...
Remitted during the year 1914-15 ...	593 12 6	...	250 11 8	...
Collected do. do. ...	6,83,399 15 4	11 0 0	2,30,066 12 2	...
Advanced do. do. ...	16,71,757 14 4	...	4,12,772 12 3	...
Outstanding at the close of the year, *i. e.*, on the 31st March 1915.	15,74,559 4 8	31 12 9	15,77,198 10 5	...

21. The failure of the crops in the autumn of 1913 led to a greatly increased demand for loans from Government, and the advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and Land Improvement Loans Act during the revenue year 1913-14 increased from a little over four lakhs to thirteen-and-a-half lakhs, and from three-quarters of a lakh to nearly eight lakhs of rupees, respectively. There was an increase in every Division, but the largest allotments were naturally made in the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions, where the crop failure was most pronounced. These two Divisions absorbed more than three-quarters of the total outlay under both Acts. In view of the large sums advanced and the temptations to divert them to other purposes, the number of cases in which misapplication of loans came to light was remarkably few. It was found necessary to grant remissions and suspensions on a fairly liberal scale, but, leaving these out of account, the total collections were satisfactory. As was anticipated in last year's Report, the result of the working of the transactions under the two Acts in the Central Provinces was a loss to Government of Rs. 30,369. **Central Provinces.**

22. In Berar the advances made to cultivators during the financial year under the two Acts amounted to Rs. 1,28,580, a considerable increase over the preceding year's figure of Rs. 86,000. The loans were granted with discrimination and promptitude and were easily recovered. The net result of the year's working under both Acts was a small profit to Government of Rs. 12,234. **Berar.**

2—SURVEYS

SURVEYS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1914.]

23. The traverse survey party worked in 7 districts and the traverse amounted to 1,781 linear miles of survey in 434 villages, in addition to sub-traverse in 342 villages. The Assistant Settlement Officer in charge also supervised the traversing of boundary lines in certain Feudatory States and Zamindaris. With a view to securing economical utilisation of the staff and a thorough overhauling of the condition and adequacy of the existing traverse, the Settlement Commissioner is arranging a Provincial programme of traverse work in which the districts will be taken up in regular order.

SETTLEMENT

3—SETTLEMENT

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1914 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1914.]

24. During the year the orders of the Government of India were received on the final reports for the Wardha and Bilaspur (Khalsa) districts. The final report for the Damoh district and a forecast report on the re-settlement of the Balaghat district were submitted. Operations were in progress during the year in the following districts :—

Nimar.—Attestation was completed last year and all that remained over was the rent-rating of 186 malguzari and 99 ryotwari villages and the assessment of 375 malguzari and 178 ryotwari villages. This work was completed and the final report submitted to the Settlement Commissioner during the course of the year.

Saugor.—The attestation of the district was practically completed. 769 villages were attested by the Settlement Officer. Rent-rate Reports for 541 villages and Assessment Reports for 613 villages were submitted. Revised assessments were announced in 648 villages, but work was hampered by a severe outbreak of cholera and the partial failure of the monsoon. The fairness of the revised rents was generally acknowledged by both malguzars and tenants.

Nagpur.—Attestation was completed in 586 villages. Rent-rate Reports for 516 villages and Assessment Reports for 522 villages were submitted, and announcement was made in 668 villages. Map correction work was completed.

Hoshangabad.—Orders to commence Settlement operations were received from the Government of India at the beginning of the year under report and in spite of initial difficulties good progress was made. Attestation of the Sohagpur tahsil, comprising 410 villages, was completed and Rent-rate Reports for 104 villages were submitted. The maps of the Hoshangabad and Seoni-Malwa tahsils were brought up to date.

Chhindwara.—Though operations were commenced late in the year, 490 villages were attested and Rent-rate Reports for 163 villages were submitted. The difficulties of map correction were great on account of the broken nature of the country, the unreliability of the existing maps and the insufficiency of traverse and sub-traverse marks, but the maps of 304 villages were corrected, and resurvey carried out in 49 villages.

Balaghat.—Map correction was carried out in 457 villages.

LAND RECORDS

4—LAND RECORDS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1914.]

Land Records establishment.

25. The patwari halkabandi of the Nimar district was revised and eleven patwaris were added to the establishment, while in Narsinghpur, where the number of patwaris was excessive, sixteen circles were abolished on the death of the incumbents. A scheme for the amalgamation of the cadres of Superintendents and Assistant Superintentents of Land Records with the subordinate executive Civil Service was worked out and submitted. In some districts the pay of patwaris was improved by bringing them on the graded scale. This reform is coming into force, district by district, according to urgency. In Berar the strength of the establishment was considerably increased so as to enable it to deal with the extra work caused by the introduction and maintenance of the Record-of-Rights. An additional Assistant Superintendent of Land Records was appointed for each district, and the staff of Revenue Inspectors and measurers was also strengthened by twenty-three and five posts respectively. The question of the recruitment of competent Revenue Inspectors presented great difficulty owing to the lack of an adequate recruiting field. Steps are being taken to evolve a system adapted to local needs.

Boundary marks.

26. Village boundary marks in the Central Provinces were generally maintained in a satisfactory condition. Circle and village note-books were up to date in all the districts except Jubbulpore, Bilaspur, and districts where Settlement operations were in progress. Circle note-books were up to date in all the districts of Berar.

27. The checking of village papers by Revenue Inspectors, though sufficient in quantity, was still lacking in quality, but a marked improvement was noticeable in the quality of check by Superintendents of Land Records and their Assistants, their check of Revenue Inspectors' work being generally satisfactory. The amount of checking done by Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants diminished to some extent and the attention of Deputy Commissioners was invited to this matter. In Berar the amount of work done by Revenue Inspectors was satisfactory, except in Buldana and Akola, where the lowness of the outturn was attributed to the Record-of-Rights operations. Superintendents of Land Records and their Assistants again showed a tendency to neglect the important check of Revenue Inspectors' work in favour of the independent checking of the work of patwaris. **Testing of village papers.**

28. Good progress was made with the preparation of the Record-of-Rights. The record was prepared in the Basim, Chikli, Mehkar and Pusad taluqs, where considerable difficulty was experienced as many of the landholders were resident in the Nizam's dominions. It was announced in the Akola, Balapur, Mangrul, Malkapur and Khamgaon taluqs. The preparation and maintenance of this record, which is the most important feature of the Revenue Administration in Berar, is being keenly watched by the people, who readily avail themselves of the records of title thus placed within their reach. **Record-of-Rights.**

29. In the Central Provinces the number of punishments inflicted on patwaris showed a considerable decrease, which was partly due to the abolition of fining in the preceding year. Twenty-three Revenue Inspectors were punished, and the conduct and discipline of the superior Land Record staff generally was reported to be somewhat unsatisfactory. It is hoped that the amalgamation of the cadre of Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records with that of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars will result in the recruitment of a better class of man to the former service. The general conduct of patwaris in Berar was satisfactory and the number of punishments inflicted was small. Their work, however, was not of high quality. This is to be attributed chiefly to the system of substitute patwaris that prevails. The malik patwaris, for the most part, refuse either to work themselves or to pay adequately the substitutes they provide. The attention of Deputy Commissioners has been called to the necessity of insisting upon reform in this respect. The work of Revenue Inspectors was good ; only eight of the permanent staff were not fully qualified. **Conduct of the Land Records staff.**

5—WASTE LANDS

WASTE LANDS

[Reports on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for 1913-14.]

30. The total area available for allotment at the beginning of the year was 286,980 acres, of which 68,774 acres were allotted during the year. After allowing for relinquishments, the balance at the end of the year was 267,037 acres. The total area included in occupied survey numbers showed a rise of 38,500 acres in the province as a whole. Four of the six districts in which the ryotwari estate covers an important area contributed towards this increase. The increase of 14,998 acres in the Chanda district was attributed largely to the declaration of patch cultivation villages to be regularly settled ryotwari villages, while the increases of 15,770 acres in Nimar and 9,149 acres in Mandla were probably due to normal extension of cultivation as the result of a series of prosperous years. In Betul there was an insignificant fall, but a more serious decrease took place in Balaghat, where the shrinkage, which amounted to 2,612 acres, was attributed partly to the proximity of Government forests and partly to the increase in the number of deer and pig due to the destruction of tigers. The progress of these ryotwari villages, many of which are situated in the most backward tracts, was stimulated by a policy of effecting improvements at the cost of public funds, including the establishment of dispensaries. In Chanda a scheme of colonization from outside failed, but the pressure of population in the adjacent villages is likely in the course of time to be sufficient to supply cultivators for the available area on ordinary ryotwari terms. **Central Provinces.**

31. In Berar the area available for cultivation in Khalsa villages was 32,313 acres and the area allotted during the year was 4,041 acres. A large number of **Berar.**

WASTE LANDS

small blocks of C Class forest, scattered all over the Division and comprising an area of 29,553 acres of land, were disforested and added to the free grazing area which is managed as village waste.

GOVERNMENT ESTATES

6—GOVERNMENT ESTATES

32. There are no Government Estates in the Central Provinces and Berar.

WARDS' ESTATES

7—WARDS' ESTATES

[Report on the management by Government of private estates for the year ending the 30th September 1914.]

Wards' Estates.

33. At the beginning of the year there were 73 estates under the management of the Court of Wards. Six more estates were brought under management during the year and five were relinquished, leaving a balance of 74 at the close of the year. The total area of the 71 estates, which remained under management throughout the year and for which statistics were furnished, was 6,341,771 acres. All the five estates relinquished had prospered under the Court of Wards management and were restored to their proprietors, not only free from any encumbrances, but with cash balances or invested funds to their credit.

Income.

34. The total gross income excluding loans received and opening balance amounted to Rs. 16,08,019, including Rs. 7,13,019 on account of rents, Rs. 4,56,674 on account of forests and Rs. 4,38,324 on account of miscellaneous sources. Owing to the serious failure of the crops in the Jubbulpore Division and poor crops in most districts of the other Divisions, the rental demand in many of the estates was reduced by suspensions, and some difficulty was found in certain of the estates in collecting even the full unsuspended demand. Out of a normal demand of Rs. 7,57,634, Rs. 56,691 was suspended and Rs. 6,51,922 collected, leaving an unsuspended balance of Rs. 39,600. The percentage of collections on the net current demand for the province as a whole was 98. A large number of estates increased their receipts from forests, but the great difficulty in forest management, the want of trained staff, still continued during the year, and in the absence of such staff the full exploitation of the larger forests and the receipt of full profits from them was impossible. It was therefore decided to take advantage of the Balaghat Forest School and train a certain number of men for employment in those estates which contain important areas of forest. In one estate in Chhindwara the construction of a road, though undertaken primarily as a relief work, yielded a large return in rendering the market more accessible for the sale of forest produce.

Expenditure.

35. The total gross ordinary expenditure of the year increased from Rs. 11,51,600 to Rs. 11,59,612. Owing to suspensions of revenue in the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions, there was a fall in the charges under this head. The expenses on account of management for the province as a whole absorbed 15 per cent of the income of the estates as against 14 per cent in the previous year, and though in some estates it absorbed 20 per cent or over, this was generally due to the presence of large forests, for the collection of the income from which a large establishment was required. Personal expenses showed an increase, but this was partly accounted for by the fact that, in estates where the ward was given home-farm from which to support himself, it was necessary to make cash grants to compensate him for the failure of the crops. There was also a large increase in expenditure on estate improvements, which amounted to Rs. 2,09,522, the main increase being in the Nerbudda and Chhattisgarh Divisions. Other investments by estates rose from Rs. 1,46,587 to Rs. 1,56,456.

Debts.

36. Good progress was again made in the liquidation of debts due by encumbered estates. Rs. 1,02,691 was paid off out of current income and Rs. 60,117 by the sale of property, while, excluding debts incurred to consolidate and pay off existing debts, further debts to the extent of Rs. 31,754 were incurred. The total amount of debts on all the estates at the beginning of the year was reduced from Rs. 8,21,310 to Rs. 6,90,256.

General.

37. The relations between the Court of Wards and its tenants continued to be excellent, and the latter were treated everywhere with the utmost

WARDS' ESTATES

consideration. Advances of taccavi or seed were naturally heavier than in the previous year owing to the character of the season. Home-farm cultivation was carried on by the Court of Wards in thirty-eight estates. Excluding two estates where the area is negligible, the results varied from a profit of Rs. 10 to a loss of Rs. 8-5-11 per acre. In spite of an unfavourable year, loss occurred in five estates only out of the thirty-eight. New rules have been framed for the keeping of home-farm accounts and special rules laid down for calculating the net profits derived from such cultivation. The education of minor wards continued to receive due attention, though in some cases the success attained was not what it might have been, and the policy was continued of associating the older wards, as far as possible, in the management of their estates.

8—REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES

REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1914 and of Berar for the year ending 31st July 1914.]

General Conditions. Central Provinces.

38. The monsoon of 1913 was quite satisfactory up to the end of August, but early in September there was a premature cessation of the rains. October was almost rainless, resulting in a failure of crops which was extensive and serious in the Jubbulpore, Damoh and Mandla districts, and very considerable in the rest of the Jubbulpore Division, part of the Nerbudda Division and most of Chhattisgarh. Owing to the dryness of the soil the rabi-sowing season was most unfavourable and the area sown with rabi was 11 per cent smaller than in the previous year. Rain in December, however, prevented any very considerable deterioration on the area that it had been possible to sow. In March 1914 hail-storms did considerable damage in Jubbulpore, Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur.

Berar.

39. In Berar, conditions were more favourable than in the Central Provinces. The monsoon broke early in June and the rainfall throughout the Division was considerably above the average. The rain, however, was not very well distributed, as few falls were received after the end of the 1st week of September. In three of the four districts, however, it was reported to be generally sufficient for agricultural purposes. Only in the Amraoti district, which had, however, been favoured above all others by the previous year's monsoon, did the failure of the autumn and winter rains have any pronounced effect.

40. In the Central Provinces the conditions of the year were such as to put the resources of the agricultural classes in many parts to a severe test. As a result of the early cessation of the rainfall the kharif crops were very poor, the most successful being tur (arhar), which, though widely sown, is nowhere reckoned as a staple. Though good winter rains caused the rabi harvest to exceed expectations, and the average outturn of wheat, gram and linseed together was three-fourths of a normal crop, in several of the most important wheat-growing districts only half or less than half of a normal harvest was reaped. In these circumstances it was found necessary to have recourse to direct measures of famine relief in the three districts of Jubbulpore, Damoh and Mandla, but elsewhere the situation was adequately met by the expansion of ordinary work, the grant of forest concessions, the suspension of land revenue and the distribution of taccavi on a liberal scale. There was no manifestation of any severe distress, and the most serious effect of the calamity was the depletion of wheat stocks and the shortage of good seed for the following year. The total area occupied for cultivation increased by 49,529 acres, the expansion of 33,445 acres in the tenant area of the Chhattisgarh Division being specially noticeable. In Berar, though the outturn of the important cotton crop was somewhat below normal, and the price received for it below that of recent years, on the whole the year was a prosperous one. There was a small increase of 3,669 acres in the total occupied area, and the outturn of almost all crops was little less than normal, as against 75 per cent of the normal in the previous year. In both the Central Provinces and Berar the year was on the whole a healthy one; cholera and small-pox appeared in places in an epidemic form, but plague was again almost entirely absent.

41. In the Central Provinces the comparative ease with which the people sustained the effects of a poor season brought out very clearly the stability of the position attained by both cultivators and labourers as the result of

a series of generally prosperous years. Malguzars and tenants with substantial holdings had sufficient reserves and took full advantage of the comparative cheapness of labour to build houses and improve their land; the smaller tenants undoubtedly felt the pinch more severely, but, with the assistance afforded by Government, were able to eke out the scanty harvest in various ways; and labourers, though they did not everywhere retain the commanding position which they had held in previous years, found ample employment at rates which, at the worst, assured them a living wage in spite of the rise in the prices of all the staple food-grains. In Berar extensive Railway and other public works ensured a strong demand for labour, and the labouring classes enjoyed the same high rates of wages as in the previous year. In a few districts of the Central Provinces cattle suffered to some extent from a shortage of fodder, but no abnormal mortality was reported, while in Berar the acuteness of the fodder question was relieved, partly by the abundant rainfall, partly by the disforestment of scattered patches of Government forests, which, though of little value as timber-providing areas, were a useful supplement to the scanty village grazing grounds.

42. The relations of the people with the officers of Government were excellent throughout the Province. The outbreak of the war in Europe gave the people an opportunity of demonstrating their fundamental loyalty and good-will towards Government; offers of assistance were freely made on all sides and the appeal for subscriptions to the Imperial Indian Relief Fund met with a gratifying response. In the Central Provinces the Co-operative Credit movement, though handicapped by agricultural conditions and the financial crisis which was brought about by bank failures, made steady progress and was of material help in enabling cultivators to tide over the unfavourable season. In Berar a noteworthy measure of success attended the efforts to win the co-operation of the leading members of the agricultural community, as a result of which the enhancement of the grazing rates was introduced without friction, crime was better reported, and certain malpractices in connection with the preparation of the Record-of-Rights were checked. Co-operative Credit here too made some advance, especially in the three districts, Amraoti, Yeotmal and Buldana, in which the movement has till now been least vigorous. The Agricultural and Veterinary Departments continued their good work of overcoming conservative prejudice, and the people everywhere showed increasing confidence in their officers.

Tenants.

43. The statistics of rental collection reflected the agricultural conditions of the year, and the percentage of realisation on account of current demand and arrears varied very considerably from district to district. Balaghat headed the list with a percentage of 96, and in the Nagpur Division generally collections were normal except in the Bhandara district. In the other Divisions suspensions and remissions of revenue necessitated similar concessions in the realisation of rents; collections were generally less than in the preceding year, but, considering the adverse conditions, the recovery of rents was as good as could be expected. The total area included in holdings in the Central Provinces showed a further rise of 71,023 acres. Every Division contributed towards the increase, the expansion in area varying from 2,216 acres in the Nerbudda Division to 33,445 in the Chhattisgarh Division.

Landlords.

44. The area held as *sir* increased in all Divisions except Chhattisgarh, in which there was no Settlement in progress to counterbalance the shrinkage which occurs when villages are sold with reservation of occupancy rights in the *sir* land. The *khudkasht* area decreased by 28,167 acres owing to the conferment of *sir* rights, the recording of land as unoccupied after it had lain fallow for three years, and the fact that *khudkasht* lessees acquired ordinary tenant rights. The tendency noticed in the preceding year for tenants to increase their holdings somewhat more rapidly than the rate of expansion of the home-farm was again evident. The percentage of the occupied area held by landlords fell slightly from 18·84 to 18·68.

Landlords and tenants. Central Provinces.

45. No important measures were undertaken which affected in any way the relations between landlords and tenants, which continued to be satisfactory. Active oppression on the part of malguzars was of rare occurrence, the few cases of unsympathetic treatment being probably due to the fact that landlords have

been compelled to adopt an attitude of self-defence against the advance of a tenantry no longer completely ignorant of its rights or backward in insisting on them. In the tracts most affected by scarcity the landlords, on the whole, acted up to their responsibilities and in the matter of rent collection refrained from excessive insistence, while remaining reasonably punctual in the payment of revenue to Government. The question of further checking the alienation of land by the agricultural classes recently formed the subject of consideration, but no further measures have been proposed beyond restriction of alienation by aboriginal tribes in tracts where their numbers are of importance and where there is a marked tendency for them to lose ground as proprietors of villages. The question of undertaking legislation to deal with this state of affairs is under consideration.

Berar.

46. In Berar there was little change in the relations between the various classes of the agricultural population. A new Tenancy Bill was drafted and submitted, and it is hoped that the introduction of such a law will put an end to the quarrels between Izardars and their tenants.

CHAPTER III

PROTECTION

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

I—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Legislative Council.

47. The territories for the time being administered by the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces were by Proclamation declared to be a Province with effect from the 10th November 1913, and the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 to 1909, were made applicable thereto. The preliminary steps necessary for giving effect to this Proclamation took a considerable time, principally because of the peculiar position of Berar and the difficulties which attended the representation of its people. The Central Provinces Legislative Council was, however, established during the year under report, and the first meeting was held on the 17th August 1914. Regulations for the nomination and election of members were issued by the Governor-General in Council on the 15th November 1913. Under these rules the ordinary constitution of the Legislative Council is as follows :—

I. A.- Elected members :—

(i) By the Municipal Committees, Central Provinces ... 3 members ;

(ii) By the District Councils, Central Provinces ... 2 members ;

(iii) By the Landholders, Central Provinces ... 2 members.

B.—Members nominated by the Chief Commissioner with the sanction of the Governor-General, who must not exceed 17 in number, and of whom—

(*a*) not more than 10 may be officials, and

(*b*) three must be non-official persons resident in Berar. These three members are, before nomination, elected by the Municipal Committees, District Boards and Landholders of Berar respectively.

II.- In addition to the 24 members above specified, the Chief Commissioner may, with the sanction of the Governor-General, nominate one more person, whether an official or a non-official, who possesses expert knowledge of subjects connected with proposed or pending legislation ; provided that he cannot nominate so many officials as to create an official majority on the Council.

48. The term of office of a member is three years, but official members and expert members may hold office for three years or for such shorter period as the Chief Commissioner may determine at the time of nomination. The Regulations further contain provisions regarding the qualifications of candidates and electors, and rules for the conduct of elections. The Vice-President of the Council is nominated by the President under Section 4 of the Indian Councils Act of 1909. This office is held at present by the Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Crump, C.S.I., I.C.S. The rules governing the conduct of legislative business, the discussion of the annual financial statement, the discussion of matters of general interest and the asking of questions in Council are similar to those in force in other Councils.

The following were the members of the Legislative Council at its constitution :—

A.—NOMINATED MEMBERS.

(1) OFFICIALS.

Name.	*Office.*
The Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Crump, C.S.I., I.C.S. ...	Financial Commissioner.
The Hon'ble Mr. B. P. Standen, C.I.E., I.C.S. ...	Commissioner, Berar.
The Hon'ble Mr. A. Mayne, I.C.S. ...	Commissioner of Excise.
The Hon'ble Sir Arthur Blennerhassett, Bart, I.C.S...	Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. T. Marten, I.C.S. ...	Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.
The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Leftwich, I.C.S. ...	Third Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.
The Hon'ble Mr. C. S. Findlay, I.C.S. ...	Legal Remembrancer and Secretary to the Chief Commissioner in the Legal Department.
The Hon'ble Mr. R. H. Tickell, C.I.E ...	Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Chief Commissioner in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.
The Hon'ble Colonel G. W. Dennys, I.M.S. ...	Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals.
The Hon'ble Mr. H. Spence ...	Officiating Inspector-General of Police.
The Hon'ble Mr. A. I. Mayhew ...	Officiating Director of Public Instruction.

(2) NON-OFFICIALS.

The Hon'ble Raja Jawahir Singh of Sarangarh.
The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Seth Sir Kasturchand Daga, K.C.I.E., of Kamptee
The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Sir Bipin Krishna Bose, Kt., C.I.E., of Nagpur.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Nawab Muhammad Salamullah Khan, C.I.E.

B.—ELECTED MEMBERS.

Name.		*Elected by*	
The Hon'ble Mr. Shiva Prasad Shrivastava ...	Municipal Committees of...		Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions.
The Hon'ble Rai Sahib Seth Nathmal ...			Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions.
The Hon'ble Mr. Moreshwar Rao Dixit ..			Nagpur and Jubbulpore Divisions.
The Hon'ble Rai Sahib Mathura Prasad ...	District Councils of ...		Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions.
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Narayan Rao Kelkar ...			Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions.
The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bishun Dutt Shukul ...	Landholders of ..		Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions.
The Hon'ble Raja Bahadur Raghoji Rao Bhonsle.			Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions.
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Ranganath Narsinha Mudholkar, C.I.E.	Municipal Committees ...	of Berar.	
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Keshav Govind Damle.	District Boards ...		
The Hon'ble Mr. Moropant Vishvanath Joshi ...	Landholders ...		

2—COURSE OF LEGISLATION

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

49. The Legislative Council of the Central Provinces held its first meeting on the 17th August 1914, when the Central Provinces General Clauses Bill was introduced. This was passed on the 27th August 1914 as Act I of 1914. The Central Provinces Court of Wards Amendment Act, I of 1915, was passed on the 20th March 1915. **Bills introduced in Council.**

The following Bills were introduced during the year :—

(1) The Central Provinces Excise Bill,
(2) The Central Provinces Vaccination Amendment Bill,
(3) The Central Provinces Slaughter of Animals Bill,
(4) The Central Provinces Land Revenue Bill, and
(5) The Central Provinces Tenancy Amendment Bill.

The first was passed immediately after the close of the year, on the 10th April 1915. The second and fifth were short and formal Bills, designed to remedy some obvious defects in the existing Acts.

50. The object of the Slaughter of Animals Bill was to provide for efficient control and inspection of certain slaughter-houses where animals are killed on a large scale, and to impose stringent penalties for the various offences and abuses which commonly arise in connection with the trade in hides and other products obtained from slaughtered animals. **Slaughter of Animals Bill.**

51. The object of the Land Revenue Bill was to deal with the questions which have arisen since the enactment of the present Land Revenue Act in the year 1881. During this long period of thirty-four years the Province has developed in every respect, especially in the sphere of Agriculture, and thus new problems **Land Revenue Bill.**

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

are presented, for the solution of which legislation has become imperative. Considerable changes were made in the arrangement of subjects in the Bill, which was designed to give a clearer and more logical exposition of the law under each head of Revenue Administration. Among the more important changes of substance embodied in its provisions were those relating to the appellate authority of Deputy Commissioners, the revision of maps and records and the maintenance of the Record-of-Rights, the assessment of land employed for non agricultural purposes the provisions concerning protected Thekadars and headmen of villages, the appointment and duties of certain village-officers and the rules regarding house-sites.

Berar.

52. The following Acts and Ordinances were applied to Berar during the year by the Notifications specified against each :

(1) The Indian Companies Act, VII of 1913, by Foreign Department Notification No. 459-I. B., dated the 21st April 1914.

(2) The Local Authorities Loans Act, IX of 1914, by Foreign Department Notification No. 1635-I. B., dated the 27th August 1914.

(3) The Ingress into India Ordinance, V of 1914, by Foreign and Political Department Notification No. 599-D., dated the 29th January 1915.

(4) The Commercial Intercourse with Enemies Ordinance, VI of 1914,
The Foreigners (Amendment) Ordinance, VII of 1914,
The Foreigners (Further Amendment) Ordinance, VIII of 1914, and
The Articles of Commerce Ordinance, IX of 1914, by Foreign and Political Department Notification No. 999-D., dated the 22nd February 1915.

(5) The Indian Motor Vehicles Act, VIII of 1914, by Foreign and Political Department Notification No. 1069-D., dated the 25th February 1915.

POLICE

3—POLICE

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1914, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Crime, General.

53. The economic conditions of the year were conducive to an increase in crime. Outbreaks of cholera occurred in the hot weather in three or four districts, and, towards the close of the year, there were severe epidemics of plague in Nagpur, Saugor and Hoshangabad. Crops were bad in the north and indifferent in the east of the Provinces. Prices generally ruled high and rose sharply on the outbreak of war. In some parts, too, there was an impression among the more lawless elements of the population that the Government would be too much pre-occupied with the effects of the war to attend to the maintenance of internal law and order. The total number of cases of reported crime rose from the previous year's figure of 32,236 to 38,974. This large increase was mainly under thefts and house-breakings, many of which were of a petty nature, and was due largely to the disturbed economic conditions above described, though in part also to the continued improvement in reporting. Though progress is still slow, the relations between the Police and the public showed steady improvement, particularly in the districts of Berar, the most backward part of the Province in this respect. The relations between the police and the magistracy were, in general, excellent.

Offences against the State, the person and property.

54. The number of offences against the State was 413, against 418 in the previous year. The Criminal Investigation Department dealt successfully with eight cases under this head, all connected with counterfeiting currency notes. Rioting cases showed a small decrease but were still numerous; they were attributable chiefly to unpremeditated quarrels, a fact which accounts for the comparative failure of preventive action to check them. Apart from the above, and with the exception of a few assaults on Government officials, there were no other important cases of a public nature. Murders increased from 225 to 245; they included several murders of young children for the sake of their jewellery and three cases of human sacrifice. Dacoities rose from 49 to 55. In the Damoh district, owing to false rumours about the pre-occupation of Government over the war, an unprecedented run of dacoities commenced in November 1914 and continued for some months after the close of the year under report. Robberies rose from 262 to 321, but this figure includes the usual large proportion of cases struck off as false. There was an unsatisfactory increase of nearly 50 per cent in arson cases, only a small number of which were taken to Court, still fewer resulting in conviction.

The total figure included a large proportion of accidents and false cases, but the attention of the Police Department has been called to the necessity of investigating the origin of cotton fires on the grounds of public policy. The increase of 29 in the number of cases of cattle-poisoning was due, in part, to the conditions of the year.

55. There was a slight increase in the percentage of cases investigated and of successful prosecutions. Considerable inequality between individual districts in this respect was largely due to local circumstances. Discretion in the matter of taking up or refusing investigation was, on the whole, wisely exercised; investigations for purely statistical purposes are becoming rarer, and the higher standard of honesty and consideration displayed in their conduct is well maintained. The difficulties of the police in the detection of crime, in spite of improved methods of investigation, are steadily becoming greater, owing, largely, to the increasing intelligence of the criminal. To ensure continued success special emphasis was laid by the Administration on the necessity for enlisting the co-operation of the public, whose general attitude towards crime is still apathetic and indifferent, and for maintaining their confidence and at the same time increasing the efficiency of the investigating staff by avoidance of frequent transfers of Sub-Inspectors, greater consideration in the treatment of parties and witnesses, greater expedition in the trial of criminal cases and strict limitation of the amount of extra work imposed on the police by the subordinate magistracy. **Police action.**

The conduct, discipline and drill of the students at the Saugor Training School were, on the whole, excellent, and health was uniformly good. The selection of provincial candidates has been transferred to a Central Committee composed almost entirely of Police officers, and proposals were submitted for increasing the number of students. Great success was achieved during the year by the Railway Police in the prosecution of cases involving the public safety, and the proportion of convictions to arrests was high.

The specialised branches of Police Administration made steady progress. The Criminal Investigation Department did good work under difficult conditions. It has now reached the stage when further advance depends on expansion of the staff. Foot-print work progressed well and the services of experts were enlisted in many cases. Increasing use was made of the Finger-print Bureau. Further instruction was given in "First Aid," and though fewer classes were held a larger number of men were trained.

There were two cases during the year in which it was found necessary to prosecute Police officers for ill-treatment of parties concerned in investigations—both of which resulted in conviction.

56. There are no rural police in the Central Provinces. Only one force of punitive police was established during the year, in the village of Masla in the Akola district, where the Marwari community had displayed a degree of contempt for authority which could not be passed unnoticed. **Rural and Punitive Police.**

57. The sanctioned strength of Inspectors was raised from 148 to 149 in order to provide for a third circle charge in the Betul district, where the control and supervision of the Station-house police was inadequate, and the cadre of Sub-Inspectors was increased from 702 to 717 in order to bring the staff up to the full scale required for the reallocation of station-houses in certain districts. A small improvement was also made in the grading of the pay of Inspectors. The number of probationers attached to the Saugor Training School increased from 55 to 61. The scheme for the improvement of the pay of Head-constables was partially introduced during the year, and the sanction of the Secretary of State was received to the grant of local allowances to constables serving in Berar and certain expensive districts of the Central Provinces. This concession was brought into force during the year under report and was extended to the mounted police and the Special Armed Reserves serving in the specified districts. The total annual cost of the force rose from Rs. 34,05,468 to Rs. 34,12,167. The expenditure would normally have been much lower owing to the large number of unfilled vacancies in the lower ranks, but any savings on this account were counterbalanced by the extra expenditure incurred by the recall of officers from leave on the outbreak of war. The number of recruits enlisted fell from 995 to 958, **Establishment.**

the decrease being specially marked among local recruits. There was an increase in both resignations and desertions. Though the war was a disturbing factor and exercised an influence adverse to recruiting, the main reason for these unsatisfactory figures is the inadequate pay of the rank and file, and a scheme for a radical revision of the pay and prospects of the lower ranks was considered during the year. The number of deaths in the force rose from 117 to 122 and there was a considerable increase in the percentage of admissions to hospital.

Miscellaneous.

58. The number of officers punished was 126 as against 136 in 1913. Of these five were dismissed and 121 were otherwise departmentally punished, the decrease from the previous year's figure being under dismissals. There was an increase of 80 in the number of men punished, but fining showed a satisfactory decrease. The number of rewards, other than by promotion, fell from 4,319 to 3,193, though the amount of cash rewards paid departmentally, Rs. 10,135, was practically the same as in the previous year. Progress with the Police building programme was not quite so rapid as in the previous year, but the allotment sanctioned totalled over four and a quarter lakhs of rupees.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

4—CRIMINAL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Crime.

59. The total number of offences before the Courts fell from 44,332 to 43,896, or by 1 per cent, a decrease which, small as it is, is the first to be recorded since 1910, while cases found to be true showed a decrease of 1·8 per cent. In the Nagpur district there was a remarkable fall of 21·6 per cent in the number of cases reported, while in Nimar the decline was equally pronounced. This is probably attributable, largely, to the effects of the war on trade and credit; the decrease was chiefly in complaint cases and it appears that high prices made the public reluctant to spend money on petty criminal litigation. The number of cases dismissed under Section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code rose from 8,779 to 9,017. Offences under the Indian Penal Code numbered 32,229 as against 32,940 in the previous year. No offences against the State, under Chapters VI or VII, occurred, while offences affecting life decreased from 497 to 478. There was a fall of over 20 per cent in the number of offences against the public tranquillity, the reduction, which was mainly in the Berar districts, being attributed to the free application of Section 145, Criminal Procedure Code, and to the deterrent effect of several important convictions in 1913. Offences under Special and Local Laws rose from 11,392 to 11,667, or by 2·4 per cent. The most marked increase was in offences under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, for which the Raipur district, with its large irrigation-works, was mainly responsible. A 50 per cent. rise in the number of Railway offences indicates the continued vigilance of Railway officials, while the establishment of a branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Jubbulpore accounts for the increased number of cases under Act XI of 1890. Proceedings under Section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, fell from 364 to 350, while those under Sections 109 and 110 rose from 407 to 488, the increase in Chanda being attributed to the insufficient use of these sections in the past. There was an increase also in cases under Section 145 of the Code. Action was taken against one person under Section 108 of the Code for disseminating seditious matter in Jubbulpore. No offence under Chapter VI of the Indian Penal Code was reported, nor were the Courts asked to have recourse to the provisions of the Indian Press Act, 1870, the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, 1911, or the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908.

Courts of Original Jurisdiction.

60. The strength of the Magistracy rose from 555 to 581. The number of persons tried by District Magistrates fell from 343 to 235 and of those brought before Courts of Sessions from 624 to 462. The figures of the year are somewhat below those of 1912, the marked rise in important crimes during 1913 being of a temporary nature. The number of persons accused before Honorary and Special Magistrates numbered 18,424 and 639 as compared with 18,500 and 261 in the previous year. The rise in the number of cases before Special Magistrates is explained by the more frequent use of the Workman's Breach of Contract Act. The percentage of cases disposed of by the various classes of Magistrates was—

District Magistrates ·5, other Stipendiary Magistrates 70·0, Honorary Magistrates 28·0 and Special Magistrates 1·5, as compared with ·6, 70·5, 28·1 and ·8 in the previous year. The number of cases tried summarily rose from 3,926 to 3,993 and the percentage on the total number of cases disposed from 12·4 to 12·6. The variations in several districts depended partly on the posting of Magistrates having summary powers and partly on the number of offences under the Municipal and Police Acts. The percentage of persons convicted to the total number of persons whose cases were disposed of increased from 39·2 to 41·5, showing a marked improvement in several districts. 840 persons were released on probation of good conduct under Section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code, as against 653 in 1913.

The despatch of business.

61. The number of cases disposed of during the year decreased from 31,906 to 31,877 and the average duration in all Courts from 18·9 days to 18·3. In the Central Provinces the average duration of Police cases rose from 19·7 to 20·3, and there was a slight further rise in Berar. There was a satisfactory reduction from 17·9 to 17·1 in the average duration of complaint cases throughout the Province.

Sessions Courts.

62. The number of cases disposed of by Sessions Courts was 232 against 258 in 1913, the decrease which is confined to the Nagpur, Jubbulpore, East Berar and West Berar Divisions being most marked in the last two areas. The percentage of convictions was 67·3 against 58·4, and the average duration 56·7 compared with 53·6 in the previous year.

Appellate and Revisional Jurisdiction.

63. The number of convicted persons whose appeals were disposed of by the Court of the Judicial Commissioner rose from 388 to 412. In 86·6 per cent the finding, and in 71·3 per cent both the finding and sentence, of the lower Court were confirmed. The number of persons whose cases were dealt with in revision was 597 against 736 in the previous year. Benches of two Judges disposed of 58 references for confirmation of death sentences as against 55 in the previous year. In two cases the Judges disagreed, in one of which they were in accord as to the guilt of five out of six accused, while in the other they were unable to agree in respect of any of the three persons involved. In each case the third Judge gave his opinion in favour of acquittal. The number of persons whose appeals were before Sessions Courts fell from 2,215 to 2,015, and those before Magistrates decreased inappreciably from 3,524 to 3,522. The average duration in Sessions Courts fell from 22·5 to 20·4, while in Magistrates' Courts it fell from 19·6 to 18 in the Central Provinces, but increased from 19·3 to 21·1 in Berar. The percentage of appellants whose sentences were unchanged was 72·3 in the Courts of Session and 58·4 in the District Courts, against 72·3 and 61·3, respectively, in the previous year. The appeals of 1,940 persons were dismissed summarily as against 2,027 in the previous year. The Judicial Commissioner's Court had to deal with eight cases, involving nine persons, in which the Local Government had appealed against acquittals. Three had been left pending at the close of 1913; in one of these the two accused died so that the appeal abated, and in the other two the acquittals were set aside. Of the remaining five appeals, three were allowed, one dismissed and in one an order for retrial was passed.

Punishments.

64. The percentages of persons sentenced to imprisonment, with or without other punishment, to fine only and to whipping only were 22·9, 73·7 and 3·4 as compared with 23·6, 73·2 and 3·2 in 1913. The percentage of whippings to sentences in cases in which whipping might have been inflicted rose from 23·3 to 23·6. The number of persons sentenced to death fell from 38 to 28, while the number sentenced to transportation rose from 107 to 121. The number of sentences of imprisonment of 15 days and under rose from 101 to 111. Sentences on previously convicted offenders showed a further increase from 721 to 733. The number of persons sentenced to fine rose from 15,399 to 15,471, but the total of fines imposed fell from Rs. 2,51,044 to Rs. 2,39,084, the percentage of realizations improving from 90·3 to 91·7. The amount struck off as unrealizable increased to Rs. 14,560 from Rs. 6,797, the most marked rises occurring in Akola and Jubbulpore. The balance outstanding at the end of the year fell from Rs. 23,298 to Rs. 17,259, the decrease being mainly in the Nagpur district. The number of boys sent to the Reformatory School remained at the previous year's figure of fourteen.

PRISONS.

5—PRISONS

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

General. 65. There was a slight change in the classification of Jails owing to the reduction of the Damoh and Wardha District Jails to the status of Subsidiary Jails. There are thus now three Central Jails as before, sixteen District Jails and three Subsidiary Jails. The Narsinghpur District Jail for adolescents is being worked on modified Borstal lines, the primary object being to give the adolescents a good training in agriculture, though several other trades and handicrafts are carried on.

Jail population. 66. The number of prisoners admitted to Jail, including transfers from other Jails both inside and outside the Provinces, rose from 12,136 in 1913 to 12,347 and the daily average strength of Jail population from 3,584·86 to 3,846·53. One reason for the rise was the abnormal increase of crime in the Damoh district. The number of previously convicted prisoners re-admitted to Jail remained practically unchanged, the proportion of such admissions to the total being 16·16, as compared with 15·57 in the previous year. The Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society at Raipur continued to do excellent work, and another such Society has been founded in the Betul district. Experiments in the employment of ex-convicts have shown that the reclamation of the habitual criminal is only possible by some well-organized body which can give the necessary home and restraint to such offenders. The increase from twelve in 1913 to twenty in the number of juveniles imprisoned was disappointing after the continuous fall of recent years.

Jail discipline. 67. There were ten escapes during the year as compared with five in 1913. Two of these were from inside Jail and eight from outside gangs. Negligence in supervision by Warders was the principal cause, but much improvement could be effected by Jailors treating their visits to outside gangs in a less routine and mechanical way. Only two of the fugitives remained uncaptured at the end of the year, and three further attempts to escape were frustrated. The frequent changes in the superior staff, owing to the war, together with the increase in population, led to a rise of thirteen per cent in the number of Jail offences, the three Central Jails contributing the greater part of this large increase. There were a few assaults of a serious nature in the two Central Jails of Nagpur and Jubbulpore, but fortunately no injury resulted. The number of cases in which it was found necessary to have recourse to the Criminal Courts for the punishment of Jail offenders increased from sixteen to twenty-two and the number of corporal punishments from twenty-seven to thirty-five. The majority of these punishments were for assaults on paid officials and for repeated refusals to work.

Health. 68. The health of prisoners was exceptionally good, the daily average number of sick being forty-five, while the ratio of deaths *per mille* fell to 12·48, which is the lowest figure yet recorded. The Raipur Central Jail, which at one time had an unenviable reputation for dysentery, showed a further satisfactory fall from sixty admissions and one death in 1913 to thirty-seven admissions and no deaths. The prophylactic use of quinine was continued, but admissions for malarial fevers showed a slight increase.

Jail Industries. 69. The number of industries carried on in Jails remained the same. In the Nagpur Central Jail the Printing Press and the Quinine Factory continued to do well, while there was a still further development in paper-making, the value of the paper sent out to offices as envelopes representing a saving of Rs. 7,355 as against Rs. 4,344 in 1913. The Jubbulpore Central Jail, in spite of an increased demand due to the war, not only fulfilled its contract with the Supply and Transport Department for the supply of textile goods, but supplied other Divisions which had not given it their contract. The amount of Rs. 1,96,049 credited into the Treasury, the largest that has ever been credited by this Jail, serves to show the work done. There was a fall of Rs. 7,428 in the total cash profit, a decrease shared by a little more than half the number of Jails. The Jubbulpore Jail, however, added Rs. 6,866 to its profits by its sale of manufactured articles to the Army Department. The decrease in other Jails was partly due to the free supply of aloe fibre by them to the Jubbulpore, Nagpur and Akola Jails. The daily average number of convicts available for work was approximately

3,250 as against 3,006 in 1913. Only 1,558 convicts were available for Jail factories, the percentage to the total population sentenced to labour being 45·34 as compared with 45·82 in the previous year. Garden produce to the value of Rs. 12,378 was obtained by the employment of a daily average number of 316 prisoners in Jail gardens. 455 convicts were employed in preparing articles for the use and consumption of the prisoners, and the estimated value of labour employed on Jail buildings was Rs. 3,457.

Cost of Jail Administration

70. The total expenditure incurred in guarding and maintaining prisoners during the year was Rs. 4,11,358 against Rs. 3,93,631 in 1913 and Rs. 3,31,197 in 1912. Though there was thus an increase of Rs. 17,727 as compared with the previous year, the average cost per head of the prison population fell from Rs. 109-12-10 to Rs. 106-15-1 on account of a rise in the Jail population. There was a decrease in the expenditure under the head "Establishment" owing to the reduction of the Damoh and Wardha District Jails to the status of Subsidiary Jails. There was a still further increase of Rs. 13,268 in the expenditure under the head "Dietary Charges" due, partly to the increase in the number of prisoners, partly to the high prices of food-grains prevailing during 1914. From the same causes the net cost to Government increased by Rs. 25,155 and the average cost per head of the prison population from Rs. 89-15-0 to Rs. 90-6-0. The average profit per head of the number sentenced to labour was Rs. 16-8-8 against Rs. 14-9-2 in 1913. The savings effected to Government by the employment of prison labour amounted to Rs. 1,14,237 as compared with Rs. 87,787 in the previous year.

6—CIVIL JUSTICE

CIVIL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Tribunals and character of litigation.

71. The fourth Judge in the Judicial Commissioner's Court, who was originally appointed temporarily, continued to work throughout the year. In pursuance of the policy of absorbing the smaller districts in their more important neighbours, the civil district of Betul was amalgamated with that of Hoshangabad and this caused a decrease of one in the number of District Judges and a corresponding increase among Additional District Judges. Two members of the Commission were employed as District Judges and a temporary Subordinate Judgeship was created, which post was abolished towards the end of the year. Two Courts of Additional Subordinate Judges were opened at Nagpur and Raipur, respectively. At the beginning of the year two Munsiffs became available for employment elsewhere, owing to the abolition of the Courts at Yeotmal and Bhandara, and a third was set free by the posting of a Subordinate Judge at Harda in 1913. Additional Munsiffs were consequently posted to Khandwa, Basim and Malkapur to clear the congested files at those places. In January a new court at Pusad was opened to which one of the two Munsiffs at Darwha was transferred, but subsequently the work at Darwha was found too much for one man and an Additional Munsiff was again posted there. Till the end of June the number of Munsiffs employed was one in excess of the sanctioned scale. A new court was opened at Chandur and a Munsiff moved to that place from Amraoti. The total number of suits instituted fell from 100,200 to 97,622. The fall, which appears to be due to the low price of cotton consequent on the war and the financial crisis at the end of 1913, is distributed evenly under all heads except that of suits for arrears of rent, which showed a rise from 7,457 to 7,768. The total value of suits instituted fell from Rs. 2,46,31,804 to Rs. 1,97,73,457. This decrease is discounted to a certain extent by the institution of a single suit valued at 40 lakhs during the previous year, and there is a substantial rise from Rs. 1,81,74,062, the figure reached in 1912. The average value of suits in Berar remained stationary at Rs. 314, but in the Central Provinces, for the reason mentioned above, it decreased from Rs. 223 to Rs. 166, which figure, however, marks an increase over that for 1912. Increased facilities for petty litigation and two financial crises, at the end of 1913 and 1914, respectively, have undoubtedly prevented a further rise in these figures.

Small Cause Court powers were conferred during the year on four Munsiffs and the powers already exercised by two District Judges were enhanced. Suits tried by this procedure have risen in value from Rs. 38,79,544 to Rs. 40,27,136 and in number

from 49,506 to 50,367, so that more than two-thirds of the suits for money and movable property are now tried by this procedure. It is generally agreed, that these courts, where they are presided over by Judges of some standing, are popular. The percentage of suits disposed of by Munsiffs fell from 45·1 to 43·7 and that of suits decided by Small Cause Court procedure showed a corresponding rise from 47·3 to 50·0. There was a slight increase in the percentages of suits decided by Subordinate and District Judges, respectively, which was due to the extension of Small Cause Court powers and a tendency to raise the pecuniary jurisdiction of the lower courts as the presiding officers became more efficient.

Pending files. 72. The reduction in the pending file, though assisted by the decrease in institutions, was satisfactory, but further improvement in the number of suits pending over six months was reported to be necessary. The Central Provinces and Berar closed the year with 15,285 and 7,451 cases pending. The average duration of both contested and uncontested cases showed a considerable decrease, the improvement in Hoshangabad and Bhandara being specially marked. The Berar figures still exceed those of any district in the Central Provinces. The proportion of contested suits again rose slightly both in the Central Provinces and in Berar.

Execution of decrees. 73. There was an appreciable decline in the number of applications for execution from 128,515 in 1913 to 122,471, both Berar and the Central Provinces contributing to this result. Disposals however showed a falling off and the pending file rose by 1,234 to 22,570, practically the whole of the rise occurring in the Central Provinces, where, moreover, the number of cases pending over 6 months increased by fifty to 711. The amount realised showed a corresponding fall from Rs. 25,21,744 to Rs. 23,55,573. The number of applications found to be wholly infructuous fell from 54,224 to 51,886, but the percentage of such applications to the number disposed of rose from 50·6 to 51·9.

Appellate litigation. 74. There was again a considerable increase in the institutions of appeals in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner; 1,524 appeals, regular and miscellaneous, were preferred as against 1,321 in 1913 and 1,253 in 1912. Disposals of first and second appeals declined from 1,182 to 1,064, the pending file rising from 1,048 to 1,403. Applications for revision decreased from 479 to 455 and disposals from 467 to 400. This decline in disposals demonstrates clearly the necessity for the fourth Judge and indicates that, unless litigation permanently decreases, a fifth Judge may be required in the near future. The total number of appeals, regular and miscellaneous, instituted and disposed of before Divisional Judges during the year was as follows:—

Instituted	...	...	537
Decided	...	...	646
Pending	...	...	161

as compared with 556, 472 and 269 in the previous year. As remarked in last year's report the pending file at Nagpur had attained unwieldy proportions at the end of 1913. The transfer of the Bhandara District to the Chhattisgarh Division at the beginning of the year under report afforded some relief. The average duration of regular appeals for the whole Province increased from 142·1 to 156·0 days. Institutions in District Judges' Courts, inclusive of the Courts of Subordinate Judges gazetted with the powers of a District Judge, fell from 3,967 to 3,782 and disposals from 4,171 to 3,800, so that the pending file was lowered by nineteen to 670. The files were everywhere in a satisfactory condition.

Institutions in Berar fell from 1,784 to 1,703 and the pending file improved from 940 at the end of 1913 to 805. There was little change in the average duration of regular appeals, a fall in East Berar being counterbalanced by a rise in West Berar.

Miscellaneous. 75. The three posts of District Judge in the Central Provinces reserved for members of the Indian Civil Service were held by members of that service at the beginning of the year. Two junior civilians were posted later on to the Department for training but they returned to the Executive on receipt of the Government of India's orders requiring civilians to have five years' experience as executive officers before being trained in judicial work. Two other civilians were then posted to the Department for training as Additional Subordinate Judges and they continued working as such for the remainder of the year.

Two members of the Provincial Service were invalided and two died. Among Munsiffs one died, one was invalided and a third retired after completing thirty years' service. The abolition of the Betul civil district enabled a Naib-Nazir to be substituted for the Nazir at that place, and the constitution of a separate Nazarat at Narsinghpur on the 1st October 1913 resulted in increased efficiency in that Department. The improvement in the work of the process-serving staff was maintained; the staff in some districts seems to be in excess of actual requirements and the possibility of reduction is being considered by the Judicial Commissioner. Cases of criminal misappropriation were still fairly common. The work of the copying department continues to grow in efficiency, though the present scale of pay fails to attract qualified men. The system of applying for copies by post is gaining ground. Security was taken from all head copyists and no cases of embezzlement were reported. The building programme of the department made good progress owing to the liberality of the building grants, and work was began on the court-house at Narsinghpur and on the Munsiffs at Ramtek, Gondia, Arvi, Murwara, Burhanpur and Sausar. The Munsiffs at Hatta, Umrer and Gadarwara were completed, and a portion of the reconstituted Civil Court at Wardha had already been occupied by the close of the year.

7—REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION

[Report on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces and Berar during the calendar year 1914, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Registration.

76. With exceptionally good seasonal prospects there was every reason to expect continued and substantial progress in the total number of registrations effected in the year under report. This anticipation was realised in the first eight months of the year, the number of documents registered rising from 75,233 in the corresponding period of last year to 79,246, or by five per cent. But the statistics of the last four months were adversely affected by the war and the progress made in the first eight months was more than lost in the closing period. The decrease was however confined to the richer and more industrially advanced localities and the cotton producing areas, which felt the effects of the war most. The figures for the complete year for the whole province show only a slight fall in the total number of registrations from 92,650 in 1913 to 92,601 in 1914. Taking the two areas separately, the Central Provinces show an increase of six per cent, while Berar shows a decrease of four per cent. The increase in the Central Provinces was confined to compulsory registrations relating to immoveable property, while the decrease in Berar was common to all classes of documents except "Wills" and "Authorities to adopt". The aggregate value of the property affected in the whole province rose from 513 lakhs to 566 lakhs of rupees. The increase is satisfactory as it shows that in spite of the war the value of land has continued to rise. Although compulsory registrations affecting immoveable property rose by eight per cent in the Central Provinces they fell by three per cent in Berar and thus for the whole province they remained practically stationary. Gifts also show very little variation either in the Central Provinces or Berar. Optional registrations relating to immoveable properly declined by five per cent for the combined area, but the aggregate value rose by ten per cent. Registrations affecting moveable property also declined from 6,312 to 5,850 for the combined area. The number of orders filed under the Land Improvement Loans Act and the Agriculturists' Loans Act increased from 434 to 1,044 and from 496 to 618, respectively. Sale-deeds of land held in proprietary rights increased from 1,153 to 1,162. Sales of villages and shares rose from 1,369 to 1,443. It is satisfactory that seventy-one per cent of the sales were in favour of agriculturists. Mortgages of proprietary rights increased from 1,337 to 1,614. The number of villages and shares mortgaged rose from 1,801 to 2,339, or by thirty per cent. The bulk of these mortgages were in favour of non-agriculturists. Sale-deeds of malik-makbuza plots and absolute-occupancy holdings rose from 3,334 to 3,474, and, of the area transferred, sixty-six per cent went to agriculturists. The total income of the Department rose from Rs. 3,95,893 to Rs. 4,03,067. Expenditure also rose in the same proportion, the figure being Rs. 1,32,152 against Rs. 1,29,678. The percentage of expenditure to receipts was thirty-three, the same as last year. The system of taking thumb impressions worked satisfactorily. The touring and inspection work of the officers of the Department was satisfactory.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

8—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

[Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914-15, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Number and constitution of Municipalities.

77. There was no change during the year in the number of Municipalities and the only change in constitution was in Wardha, where a new Committee came into existence at the beginning of the year. All Municipal Committees, except those of Pachmarhi, Mandla and Seoni-Malwa, held the prescribed number of meetings. Attendance at the meetings was generally satisfactory. Most of the Municipalities in the Nagpur Division reverted during the year to the old system of triennial elections, which has, since the close of the year, been made general.

Income.

78. The total income of all Municipalities, excluding extraordinary receipts and debt, was Rs. 33,09,175, as compared with Rs. 31,62,928, in the preceding year, but if Government contributions be excluded, the real income from Municipal sources was Rs. 26,55,151 against Rs. 28,76,361. The fall was mainly due to the effects of the war and was chiefly under the head "Octroi," the receipts under which were nearly a lakh and quarter less than the previous year's figure. The income from taxes other than octroi fell by about Rs. 20,000 which was mainly accounted for by the decrease in the two Municipalities of Khurai and Damoh under "Cattle Registration Fees," the trade in jerked meat and hides being seriously affected by the war and by an outbreak of plague. Realisations under special Acts, amounting to Rs. 1,33,000, showed an increase of seven per cent on the previous year's figure, while revenue derived from Municipal property and powers apart from taxation, amounting to Rs. 5,37,000, showed a fall of Rs. 24,000. Government contributions amounted to Rs. 6,54,024 and made up about twenty per cent of the total Municipal income. Over 4 lakhs of rupees out of this amount represented grants to Municipalities for sanitary works and included grants of Rs. 1,62,000 to the Nagpur, Harda and Chanda Municipalities for drainage schemes and Rs. 2,19,000 to the Akola, Damoh, Buldana, Arvi, Bilaspur, Amraoti Camp and Seoni Municipalities for water-supply projects. Grants for educational purposes amounted to Rs. 1,89,347 against Rs. 64,405 in the preceding year and included Rs. 1,14,600 specially granted for expenditure on primary school buildings. The incidence of taxation per head of population fell in the Central Provinces at Rs. 2-0-3, as compared with Rs. 2-2-7 in the preceding year, the decline being mainly due to the fall in octroi receipts, while in Berar, where there is no octroi, there was a trifling increase in incidence from Rs. 1-8-7 to Rs. 1-9-2.

Expenditure.

79. The opening balance of all Municipalities at the beginning of the year was Rs. 13,74,227. Receipts amounted to Rs. 38,89,723 and disbursements to Rs. 40,90,966, leaving a closing balance at the end of the year of Rs. 11,72,984. The large balances in some Municipalities were accumulated for expenditure on specific objects. Excluding debt and extraordinary expenditure, the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 36,59,336 against Rs. 31,38,807 in the preceding year. The capital outlay on water-supply was Rs. 3,92,156 against Rs. 92,665 in 1913-14, the increase being due to new projects undertaken in the Arvi, Akola, Buldana and Damoh Municipalities. The capital expenditure on drainage amounted to Rs. 3,19,400 against Rs. 3,77,933. A sum of over two lakhs of rupees was spent on the Nagpur drainage scheme which was still in progress and over one lakh on the new drainage scheme at Harda. The expenditure on conservancy and sanitation amounted to Rs. 6,10,022, showing an increase of nearly Rs. 21,000, which was shared by almost all Municipalities. Steady progress was made in the direction of the relief of congestion and its attendant insanitary conditions. Town improvement schemes were undertaken in Chhindwara, Pandurna and Sausar, and an important scheme was approved in Bilaspur. The Jubbulpore Municipality have called in the services of an expert in town planning to advise them in a scheme now under contemplation, and the Municipalities of Raipur, Amraoti Town and Burhanpur also had schemes under consideration during the year. Eleven minor municipalities were provided with whole-time Sanitary Inspectors, half of whose pay is defrayed by Government in the shape of a recurring grant, while several other Municipalities appointed Sanitary Inspectors out of their own funds, or trained or arranged for the training of their Secretaries in Sanitation. The expenditure on Education rose from Rs. 3,37,398

to Rs. 4,27,672, but the increase was entirely due to outlay from Government contributions for the improvement of primary school buildings. Good progress was made in raising the pay of primary school teachers.

Loans.

80. At the close of the year seventeen Municipalities and one notified area were indebted to Government on account of loans granted to them. The amount advanced during the year was Rs. 2,67,000. One lakh of rupees was paid to the Nagpur Municipality as the fifth instalment of the loan of eight lakhs for its drainage scheme, a sum of Rs. 75,000 was advanced to the Arvi Municipality and Rs. 50,000 to the Harda Municipality as the first instalments of loans for water-supply and drainage schemes, respectively, and the rest was granted for water supply schemes at Damoh and Buldana, the construction of a fruit market at Nagpur and a small town improvement scheme at Chhindwara. The total balance outstanding at the close of the year on account of loans was Rs. 24,13,422 against Rs. 22,62,520 in the previous year. The finances of all Municipalities which have taken loans from Government were in a satisfactory condition.

9—DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

[Resolution on the working of the District Councils and Local Boards of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914-15, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Number, constitution, meetings and attendance.

81. The only change in constitution was in Chhindwara, where a Local Board was created for the Amarwara tahsil. This involved a curtailment of the area of the Chhindwara Local Board and the number of its elected members was reduced by six, while the number of elected members on the District Council was increased by two and the number of nominated members decreased by one. An advisory Sub-Committee to the District Fund Committee of Mandla was also created for the newly formed Niwas tahsil and the number of members of the Dindori Sub-Committee was increased by two. Four Local Boards and four Zamindari Boards failed to hold the prescribed number of meetings, and 93 out of a total of 830 meetings held proved abortive for want of a quorum. Fifteen of the District Councils and fifty-one of the Local Boards had an average non-official attendance of under 50 per cent and the provincial average fell from 46 to 44.

Income and Expenditure.

82. Income and expenditure, excluding account heads, showed an increase of Rs. 3,74,000 and Rs. 5,38,000, respectively, over the figures of the preceding year. Government contributions for Education and Civil works exceeded those of the preceding year by Rs. 4,35,000. The other noticeable variations in income were an increase of Rs. 32,000 under Local Rates and a decrease of Rs. 24,000 in Cattle-pound Receipts. Of the contributions made by Government, a sum of about three and a half lakhs of rupees was assigned for the maintenance of roads and buildings transferred from the Public Works Department to District Councils under the Divisional Local Fund Engineer Scheme, Rs. 56,000 was granted for the purchase of steam rollers and for the provision of cause-ways over rivers, Rs. 60,000 for the improvement of water-supply in rural areas, Rs. 1,08,000 for the opening and Rs. 63,000 for the maintenance of new primary schools, and Rs. 1,27,500 for the improvement of school accommodation. Grants were also made for the raising of the minimum pay of certificated teachers in vernacular schools to Rs. 11 per mensem and for their pensionary contributions. Closing balances increased in all but eight districts. The largest balances were still to be found in the Berar districts, where, however, definite programmes have been prepared, which, as soon as the contemplated appointment of a second Local Fund Engineer is complete, should enable the funds of the Boards to be quickly and usefully employed. The demands of education, as before, absorbed a large proportion of District Council funds, the percentage of total income expended on public instruction falling at 29 in the Central Provinces and 33 in Berar. The total expenditure on education was Rs. 7,48,000 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 3,71,000 in Berar, Government contributions amounting to Rs. 6,31,000 and Rs. 1,69,000, respectively. Particular attention was again paid to primary education and there was an increase of 143 in the number of primary schools. The number of dispensaries subsidised by District Funds increased from 151 to 160, and the expenditure incurred was over one and a quarter lakhs of rupees, an increase of 21 per cent. over the

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

previous year's figure; two new dispensaries were opened in the Chhindwara district and one each in Narsinghpur, Raipur and Bilaspur. Rs. 78,801 was spent on vaccination, the increase over the preceding year's figure being mainly due to the introduction of a scheme for improving the pay and prospects of the staff, and Rs. 24,542 was spent on sanitation and conservancy. The usual annual grant of Rs. 60,000 was made by Government for the improvement, on a definite programme, of water-supply in villages specially liable to cholera, and most districts spent more than the amount of the grant on this work. The total expenditure on Civil Works amounted to Rs. 17,23,113 against Rs. 13,86,623 in the preceding year. The increase was due to expenditure, from the Government contributions, on the maintenance of roads and building transferred from the Public Works Department to District Councils. The expenditure on communications was about 38 per cent of the total expenditure on civil works, showing a satisfactory increase of 7 per cent over the previous year's figure. The Divisional Local Fund Engineer scheme made good progress, and, though a final opinion cannot yet be pronounced, there is general confidence in its ultimate success. The amount spent on arboriculture was Rs. 31,062; definite programmes were drawn up in all districts and, in general, good progress was made. The number of cattle pounds increased from 1,333 to 1,397; the income fell by 4 per cent while the expenditure rose by 6 per cent. All charges on account of veterinary dispensaries, except the pay of Veterinary Assistants, continued to be met from District Funds. There was a general rise in the number of cases treated, indicating the increasing popularity of veterinary work.

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING)

10—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING)

The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles.

83. The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles were the only two Volunteer Corps in the Central Provinces. The enrolled strength of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles continued to rise and in 1914-15 numbered 1,372, including thirty-two Commissioned Officers, as compared with 1,326, including thirty Commissioned Officers, in 1913-14. Of this number, 1,190 were classed as extra-efficient, 172 as efficient and ten as non-efficient, while marksmen numbered 324 as compared with 294 in the preceding year. There were ninety-four Reservists, all of whom were efficient. The annual Camp-of-Exercise was held at Nagpur from the 24th to the 30th January 1915 and attracted a record attendance, the numbers actually living in Camp being 716 of all ranks as compared with 619 in the previous year. Among other operations the Battalion engaged in field practice with the Territorial force stationed at Kamptee in the vicinity of that station. The Corps was inspected during the Camp-of-Exercise by the General Officer Commanding, 5th (Mhow) Division, who was favourably impressed with the efficiency and smart appearance of all ranks. A Maxim Gun Section from the Corps, consisting of one Officer and eleven Volunteers, proceeded on active service with the Indian Expeditionary Force "C," while several officers and members of the Mounted Companies joined the Indian Army Reserve of Officers on active service. The financial position of the Corps was satisfactory.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Volunteer Rifles.

84. The total enrolled strength of the 2nd Battalion of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Corps, which has its headquarters at Nagpur, was 630 on the 31st March 1915 as compared with 573 in the preceding year. Of this number 326, including thirteen officers, were employed in the Central Provinces, and of these 272 were classed as extra-efficient, fifty as efficient and four as non-efficient; while marksmen numbered ninety-five. During the year field days were held whenever practicable. During the Camp-of-Exercise at Jharsugada the Battalion was exercised with the 1st Battalion, Bengal-Nagpur Railway Corps, and much useful and practical work was carried out. The financial position of the Corps was satisfactory.

CHAPTER IV

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

1—AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE

[Reports on the working of the Department of Agriculture and on the Agricultural Stations of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th June 1915.]

Agriculture.

85. During the last few years the scope of the Agriculture Department's work has been limited to some extent by the inadequate strength of the superior staff. The addition, in 1913-14, of two Assistant Directors helped towards meeting the difficulty, and the formerly overburdened charge of the Southern Circle was further relieved by a re-distribution of the districts. The cotton country, consisting of Berar and the neighbouring districts of the Central Provinces, was formed into the new Western Circle under a third Deputy Director, while a small Circle was created round Nagpur and placed under the charge of the Principal of the Agricultural College. There are thus now three main Circles covering the wheat, rice and cotton tracts, respectively, and a small College Demonstration Circle. The sanction of the Secretary of State has been received to the employment of three Deputy Directors with an Assistant attached to each, but there is still immense room for expansion, especially in the direction of cattle-breeding, assistance to the co-operative movement in its development on productive lines and the utilization of the large irrigation projects now in course of construction. The need for financial economy prevented the inauguration of any large projects such as additional farms, but during the year it was possible to open a new farm at Betul and to start another on a small scale in Kawardha.

Agricultural education.

86. At the Agricultural College it had long been felt that a single course of training could scarcely be adapted alike to the practical farmer of ordinary educational attainments and to the more advanced student. To meet this difficulty a new curriculum, based on the system in practice at Coimbatore, was introduced, in which the course is divided into two parts. The first is devoted almost entirely to agriculture and is sufficiently complete in itself for the training of the lower subordinate branch of the Agricultural Service or for private farmers, while the second part consists of a more advanced course of service which will provide a training for the upper subordinate service. This innovation resulted in a gratifying increase of candidates for training. The work of the year suffered considerably from a serious outbreak of plague which necessitated closure of the College for seven weeks, but the results achieved in spite of adverse circumstances were creditable.

The publication and issue of the Agricultural and Co-operative Gazette continued throughout the year, but the number of copies circulated fell from 5,922 to 5,912. Weekly cotton returns were also compiled and circulated for general information.

Agricultural enquiry and demonstration.

87. The season was on the whole a favourable one, and some useful results were obtained on the eight Government farms by way both of research and of demonstration. At the Tharsa Farm excellent results were obtained with Raipur ground-nut followed by wheat, and it was also demonstrated that oranges are very much more economical of water than plantains, a result of considerable importance for irrigated tracts where the supply of water is limited. The Akola Farm was devoted almost entirely to the production of Rosea cotton seed, which has proved so complete a success in the Nagpur-Berar country, and only one-twentieth of the area was put under experimental cropping. Apart from cotton, there is much room for experiment in rabi crops, which are of no small importance in Berar, and also in juar which is the staple food in that part of the country. An area of some fifty acres of wheat land was acquired as an adjunct to the

Adhartal Farm, where good progress was made in demonstrating the economical use of tank water and the best methods of cropping and cultivation in areas commanded by small irrigation tanks. Interesting experiments were also carried out in rice and sugarcane. On the Powarkhera Farm manurial and rotation experiments with wheat were continued.

The work of demonstrating to agriculturists the increased profits to be derived from the use of improved implements and methods of agriculture, and the use of properly selected seed, was carried on with unremitting energy in the various Divisions. The Raipur Farm again demonstrated the superiority of the transplanting over the broadcasting method of rice cultivation. In Chhattisgarh the area under transplanted rice rose from 30,000 to 40,000 acres, and the fact that this area is distributed over nearly 5,000 villages shows how widespread are the activities of the Department in this respect. With the excellent start that has been made it may be hoped with some confidence that ultimately, at least in the areas commanded by the Mahanadi and Tendula canals now being built, transplantation will be almost universally followed. In the Northern Circle an outstanding feature was the success which attended the small demonstration plots managed by Kamdars trained at the Adhartal Farm. There is a general opinion that these should be increased in numbers and spread uniformly over each district, but this is only possible if they are supplemented, as in Jubbulpore, by private unions of agriculturists who will run demonstration plots with their own ploughmen. The Evans Seed Farm working in connection with the Crosthwaite Central Bank did useful work in supplying nearly a hundred tons of first class selected wheat seed to members of Co-operative Societies at a time when, owing to the failure of crops in the previous year, good seed was extremely scarce. The value of co-operation in agriculture is further illustrated from the Western Circle, where the number of Agricultural Unions increased to thirty and where these unions and the seed farms connected with them distributed 700 tons of Rosea cotton seed.

Cattle-breeding was very successful at Telinkheri and Powarkhera, but less so at Chandkhuri, where there was an unfortunate outbreak of foot and mouth disease. For the improvement of cattle-breeding generally the chief need is for a comprehensive scheme for the institution of farms at the most suitable centres with a view to maintaining strains of the best breeds and producing new types suited to the special needs of each tract. A start was made in this direction with a farm at Borgaon, in the Akola District for the improvement of the Khamgaon breed, which is the most important class of agricultural cattle in Berar. The success of the Co-operative Society of Gaolis at the Telinkheri Dairy during the past year led to the registration of a second Gaoli Society. The Dairy has been a boon to the residents of Nagpur and has added largely to the amenities of life, and the early forebodings as to its success have been dispelled. The year was marked by the extensive depredations of the "Maho" insect, a small green hopper which attacks the rice plants. Its activities were manifested principally in the Chhattisgarh Division, and the Entomological staff of the Department was almost continuously occupied in the investigation of its somewhat obscure life-history and, with the strenuous assistance of the Executive staff, in organizing campaigns for its destruction.

District Associations.

88. The formation of Taluq Agricultural Associations in Berar, in place of the more cumbersome District Associations, is likely to lead to increased interest on the part of agriculturists in the work of the Department; experience in the north of the Provinces has already shown that concentration in small areas, with definite local interests, is the best means of securing practical and tangible results.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

1 (*a*)—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914-15.

Co-operative Societies.

89. The conditions with which work on co-operation was attended during the year 1914-15 were of exceptional difficulty. The effects of the banking crisis of the previous year were still felt; a bad agricultural season had just been experienced and in the northern districts was succeeded by a poor one; and over and above these circumstances, sufficient to be discouraging in themselves, the outbreak of war caused a rise in prices and a temporary restriction of credit.

Simultaneously, and independently of these circumstances, the rapidly increasing progress of the movement had reached a stage when, from sheer inability to provide it with adequate supervision, and the consequent risk of injuring its high reputation in these Provinces, further expansion had to be restricted. In spite of these disturbing factors, however, the co-operative movement made steady progress. The outbreak of the war caused a large withdrawal of deposits at a time when money was specially needed to finance the rabi sowings, but every anna was repaid on the due date and the societies were fully financed. Public confidence was soon restored, with the result that the number of societies increased from 2,213 to 2,297, the membership from 40,415 to 44,084 and working capital from 65 to 72½ lakhs of rupees. The need for a larger supervising staff has been partially met by temporary arrangements, and a more elaborate scheme has been recommended to the Government of India.

Working of Central Societies, Provincial and Central Banks.

90. The Provincial Co-operative Bank, under the peculiar conditions of the year, had to devote especial care to the strengthening of the financial position. The working capital was Rs. 13,44,350 as compared with Rs. 12,22,450 in the previous year. Central Banks remitted over Rs. 6¾ lakhs in cash to the Provincial Bank, *i. e.*, about a lakh and a half more than in the previous year. The deposits held by the Provincial Bank increased from Rs. 5,35,933 to Rs. 9,86,796; and at the close of the year the debt of Rs. 3,52,585 due to the Allahabad Bank had been cleared off, a sum of Rs. 3,30,000 had been invested in easily realizable securities, and the cash in hand amounted to Rs. 42,811. The Bank declared a dividend of 4 per cent, Rs. 10,000 was added to the reserve fund and Rs. 6,000 carried forward out of profits. The Directors of the Bank were careful to warn their customers, the Central Banks, of the necessity of educating and consolidating the existing societies, and of increasing their own deposits and share capital. The Union of Co-operative Banks, as a co-ordinating and controlling institution, continued to give most valuable assistance to the Registrar and did much to secure unity of aim and effort. The Union Congress, consisting of one elected delegate from each Central Bank, met once during the year, and adopted a provincial policy with regard to reserve funds, deposit banking and credit limits. The Central Banks made steady progress and exercised, on the whole, a wise discretion in adapting their demands for repayment and their treatment of applications for assistance to the difficult agricultural conditions of the year. Their number increased from twenty-eight to twenty-nine owing to the registration of a new bank at Bilaspur. The working capital rose from Rs. 25,86,613 to Rs. 29,37,460, share capital from Rs. 4,97,105 to Rs. 6,03,173 and deposits by members from Rs. 1,89,913 to Rs. 3,84,220. Loans from the Provincial Bank decreased by a little over a lakh. The reserve fund was still very small, but staff has been engaged and trained in anticipation of expansion, and this sound policy has decreased profits.

Agricultural Unions for production and sale.

91. There is a real demand for agricultural societies for purposes other than credit. Owing, however, to inadequacy of staff, it has not been possible to comply with the demand, and this has resulted in an increasing and unregulated growth of unregistered societies. Production, sale and distribution represent a very distinct step in advance of simple borrowing, and the risk of failure is proportionately greater. The development of this branch of the movement is of the greatest importance, but must await expansion of the staff. The existing eighteen registered societies of this class continued to do well, especially in seed production and the introduction of improved implements. The operations in the Jubbulpore district were specially successful; as in the previous year, the Sihora Central Bank imported selected wheat on behalf of its societies from the supervised seed farms of the Hoshangabad district, and, in a year of distinct shortage, the two registered Seed Unions, comprising thirteen credit societies, sowed some 70,000 lbs. of pure seed. The eleven registered Cotton Unions in the Western Circle produced 579,504 lbs. of pure Rosea seed and made profits amounting to nearly Rs. 30,000.

Agricultural Societies, Unlimited.

92. The number of societies of this class rose from 2,083 to 2,154, the membership from 34,242 to 36,981, and savings deposits by members from Rs. 80,694 to Rs. 1,06,788. The total funds belonging to the societies amounted to Rs. 2,86,340 against Rs. 1,93,223 in the previous year. 2,013 societies are

now shareholders in the Central Banks to which they are affiliated. The agricultural credit societies have, during the past few years, been called upon to encounter very severe trials, but, in the matter of meeting their obligations, they have a wonderfully good record and practically all have been of solid and valuable assistance to their members.

Non-agricultural Societies; Credit, Limited.

93. Of the eight non-agricultural societies, with limited liability, two were under liquidation during the year. The business of winding up their affairs, which has now been going on for some time, drags on slowly; there is, however, no danger of loss as there are surplus assets in hand. The manner in which the affairs of the Betul Officials' Society were carried on was most unsatisfactory, and it was decided to cancel its registration and to make the members bear the cost of compulsory liquidation. The failure and abolition of this and other societies of the kind has shown that such societies require the disciplinary guidance of an officer in authority. The Hatta Urban Society showed signs of becoming a mere money-lending concern, and the need for reorganization was indicated, but its financial position is sound and it has conferred substantial benefit upon its members. The remaining four societies of this class were well managed and are in a prosperous condition.

Non-agricultural Societies; Credit, Unlimited.

94. Societies of this class have increased in number from eighty-one to eighty-five, membership from 1,024 to 1,115 and working capital from Rs. 45,400 to Rs. 52,500. There are fifty-five societies of weavers, five of dyers, two of gold and silversmiths, four of brass and copper workers, seven of basket makers, two of potters, one of leather workers and nine of petty village traders. No class of society has felt so directly the financial effects of the war as the small industrial societies of weavers and dyers. The general contraction in the purchasing power of the people, especially in the cotton tracts which form the market of their wares, hit these classes particularly hard, and it was necessary for Government to undertake extensive operations for the relief of weavers at Nagpur and Burhanpur. The societies, however, contrived to get along without direct financial assistance from Government, and no financial default was made. It is, however, impossible for the Central Banks to finance these societies further and their only hope is an early revival of the market. The other societies of this class did well.

Resources.

95. Although the circumstances of the year 1914-15 were of exceptional difficulty, the Provincial Bank almost doubled its deposits, increased its reserve fund and declared a dividend of 4 per cent. The Central Banks made steady progress and collected the major portion of the amount due for recovery from their constituent societies. In the matter of financial resources the movement continued to be self-supporting. No money was owing either to Government or the Allahabad Bank, and fluid investments, outside Co-operative business, amounted to almost six lakhs of rupees.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

1 (*b*)—VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

[Report on the working of the Civil Veterinary Department, Central Provinces, for the year ending the 31st March 1915.]

Veterinary Department.

96. The year under report was a healthy one for cattle and the mortality from rinderpest, the most widely destructive of the epidemic diseases, was less than a third of that in the previous year. The calls for inoculation work were therefore less numerous than usual, and the number of animals inoculated fell from 94,690 to 47,285. There was, however, no relaxation in the energies of the department; on the contrary, nearly a quarter of a million cases of all kinds, excluding inoculations, were treated. The experiments with anthrax serum were a complete success. Public confidence in the efforts of the Veterinary officers showed steady progress, and the liberal subventions made by the Administration to local bodies for providing better hospital accommodation afforded a testimony to the people that local interests had received full attention. As a significant token of growing enlightenment, it was reported that in some cases villagers had actually excluded from their neighbourhood cattle which had been in an infected area. With the provision of good accommodation at the New Laboratories erected for the Agriculture Department at Nagpur, facilities for research and for the examination of specimens were greatly increased.

VETERNARY DEPARTMENT

97. During the year the expenditure incurred by the Veterinary Department fell from Rs. 2,59,630 to Rs. 2,10,555. The decrease did not occur owing to any contraction of activity, but was due to the fact that in the previous year special efforts were made to provide adequate hospital buildings, a grant of Rs. 77,000 being made for the purpose. Notwithstanding the somewhat stringent financial condition of the year under report, budget provision was made for the permanent appointment of a second superintendent for the Provinces, and the Secretary of State for India has sanctioned this appointment. The subordinate staff is now much more efficient than was the case a few years ago: nevertheless men with a better educational grounding are required, and in order to secure them the Administration has since the close of the year given provisional sanction to a higher scale of pay for Veterinary Assistants. A conference of Veterinary Inspectors was held during the year for the first time, and it is hoped that the discussion on various departmental points will benefit the Inspectors and give them a better understanding of the working of the department. In general, the year was one of successful work and continued progress.

2—WEATHER AND CROPS

WEATHER AND CROPS

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1914-15, area and yield of certain principal crops in India, 1914-15, and Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I.]

Rainfall.

98. The monsoon of 1914 began well except that the rainfall during June in Yeotmal and Buldana was excessive and some of the cotton seed was washed away, necessitating resowing. During July, August and September the rain was sufficient in quantity and well distributed, and the prospects of the kharif crops were excellent. That these prospects were not fully realised was not due to climatic causes. At first it appeared as if the rabi harvest would also be excellent, but cloudy weather during November, and the almost complete cessation of dew following on short rainfall during October seriously injured the young plants, especially on poor and uneven land. The winter rains were also rather unsatisfactory except in Seoni, Mandla and the Southern districts. Finally, when it could do nothing but harm, there were heavy storms of rain frequently accompanied by hail, just as the harvest was being gathered. The crops on the threshing floors were injured, and rust appeared in the Jubbulpore district and caused considerable damage to the wheat crop. The general average rainfall during the year for the Central Provinces was 47·31 inches as compared with 48·22, which is the average for 47 years. All districts, except Jubbulpore, Narsinghpur, Betul, Chhindwara, Chanda, Drug, Raipur and the Vindhyan districts, received more than the average rainfall, the excess being most marked in Balaghat and Buldana where it amounted to 30 and 63 per cent, respectively. In Berar the general average was 41·47 inches as against 31·45, the average for twenty-one years.

Character of the season.

99. The kharif area of the Central Provinces increased by 714,547 acres (6 per cent). The increase was common to all districts except Chanda, Bhandara, Balaghat and Drug. The expansion in the Jubbulpore Division amounted to 332,236 acres (17 per cent); in the Nerbudda Division, 268,361 acres (11 per cent); in the Nagpur Division, 88,972 acres (3 per cent); and in the Chhattisgarh Division, 24,978 acres (1 per cent). The area placed under juar, cotton and til rose considerably owing to favourable climatic conditions at sowing time, while the rice area receded by 64,903 acres (1 per cent). The kharif area of Berar decreased by 88,910 acres (1 per cent). This was due to the fact that in Akola and Buldana some land which had been sown with cotton was reploughed and sown with spring crops, the cotton having been washed away or damaged by heavy rains. The outturn of the kharif crop was, on the whole, normal. The rabi area of the Central Provinces and Berar, which showed a decrease of 930,986 acres in the preceding year, increased by 828,372 (11 per cent). All Divisions, except Nerbudda, shared in the recovery. The increase was due to favourable climatic conditions at sowing time, while the shrinkage in the Nerbudda Division was caused, partly by the deficiency of rabi seed owing to the poor crop of the preceding year, partly by the extension of the kharif area. The rabi harvest was about 80 to 85 per cent of a normal crop. Owing to the timely and good rainfall which diminished the necessity for artificial watering, the area irrigated in the Central Provinces fell from 949,231 to 720,398 acres, or by 228,833 (24 per cent). The most marked decrease was in the Chhattisgarh

Division, where the area contracted by 218,505 acres (70 per cent). There was no scarcity of fodder or water.

Yield of the autumn (kharif) crops.

100. *Rice.*—The area under rice in the Central Provinces declined by 64,903 acres (1 per cent). The meteorological conditions were favourable for rice, and the rainfall was timely and evenly distributed with opportune breaks. But the damage caused by insects in the Chhattisgarh Division reduced what would otherwise have been a bumper crop in all the important rice districts. In the Central Provinces as a whole the outturn of broadcast and transplanted rice amounted to 92 and 121 respectively against 55 and 68 in the previous year.

Juar.—Juar, which is largely grown as a mixture with arhar (tur), occupied 1,841,813 acres in the Central Provinces, or 304,708 acres (23 per cent) more than the area sown in the previous year. In Berar the area increased by 21,746 acres (1 per cent). The increase was mainly due to the replacement of spoilt cotton by juar and dearness of fodder. The seasonal conditions were generally favourable for the cultivation of juar, and for both the Central Provinces and Berar the production stood at 100 in American notation against 79 in 1913-14.

Cotton.—In the Central Provinces the area under cotton increased by 43,863 acres (3 per cent). The increase was due mainly to favourable climatic conditions at sowing time, the paying nature of the crop, and the shortage of rabi seed in the Jubbulpore and Narsinghpur districts. In Berar the area fell by 111,601 acres (3 per cent), the shrinkage being due partly to substitution of juar and spring crops in place of spoilt cotton and partly to rotation of crops. The rain was generally sufficient and well distributed and the germination good, but the war having knocked the bottom out of the cotton market, the crop was neglected, and finally the hot weather and absence of dew in October and November caused a number of bolls to fall prematurely. In the Central Provinces a yield of 92 in American notation, against 85 in the previous year, was received. In Berar the outturn was the same as that of 1913-14, namely 91.

Til.—The area under til in the Central Provinces and Berar increased by 57,996 (7 per cent) and 2,075 acres (3 per cent) respectively. The increase, which was shared by fourteen districts, was due mainly to favourable climatic conditions at sowing time and to the high price which this commodity fetched in the previous year in Betul and Nagpur. Continuous rain in July slightly damaged the crop in heavy soil, but in August and September the rainfall was well distributed, while light showers received in the subsequent months were beneficial. Nagpur had a full crop (120). In Damoh, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Nimar, Betul, Bhandara and Yeotmal the yield was equal to or a little over the normal. For the Central Provinces and Berar together the outturn was 96 against 82 in the previous year.

Yield of the spring (rabi) crops.

Wheat.—The area under wheat and wheat-gram in the Central Provinces amounted to 3,202,151 acres, which is below the previous year's figures by 85,755 acres (3 per cent). The rainfall was well distributed for the preparation of the seed-bed during the monsoon, and germination was very successful except in Damoh where some resowing was necessary. October and November were, however, extremely hot and there was an almost complete absence of dew, and though fairly good winter rains were received throughout the Provinces, the crop suffered severely from drought in Narsinghpur and the poorer parts of Jubbulpore and Hoshangabad. Rust appeared in the Jubbulpore district and seriously damaged the standing crops, whilst in practically all districts some of the wheat was injured in the threshing floors by the rain. Thus what had at one time promised to be an excellent crop finally gave an outturn of only 86 per cent of the normal in the Central Provinces and Berar. Gram fared better than wheat, and considerably exceeded the yield of the previous year.

Linseed.—The area under linseed increased by 291,385 acres (32 per cent) in the Central Provinces. The expansion was due to favourable climatic conditions at sowing time, and in the case of Jubbulpore to the scarcity of wheat seed. The sowings were generally successful and germination was good. Winter showers in some districts benefited the crop, but insufficiency of moisture, cloudy weather, hail, rust and insects damaged the crop in several districts and reduced the outturn. In the Central Provinces and Berar together 80 per cent of a normal crop was reaped.

3—HORTICULTURE

HORTICULTURE

[Report on the management of the Provincial and District Gardens in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914-15.]

Provincial Gardens.

101. The favourable character of the season, in Nagpur, combined with the ample supply of water given by the new main from the Telinkheri tank, resulted in the attractive appearance of the Maharajbagh Garden being well maintained. Fruit culture remained considerably handicapped by water-logging, but the level of some of the low-lying ground was raised by carting a large quantity of soil into the garden. In spite of this difficulty several new varieties of fruit were experimented with, and varieties of orange and mango received from Bangalore gave hope of good results. The number of plants and trees which were sold or given away was 30,681, or nearly 4,000 below the total of the previous year. The net cost of the Maharajbagh Garden rose from Rs. 8,364 to Rs. 11,567. The appearance of the Telinkheri Garden showed a steady improvement, and it continued to be deservedly popular with the public, both European and Indian. There was a satisfactory increase in receipts at this garden, due entirely to improved sales of vegetables and fruit. The season on the whole was not favourable for the Pachmarhi and Pagara Gardens. Frost and hailstorms did great damage to the mango crop and were followed by a very dry and hot summer. A new well was almost completed to supply some of the deficiency of water caused by the removal of the dam across the nala. In spite of the adverse circumstances very fair crops of fruit and vegetables were obtained, and the display of flowers was particularly beautiful. The total receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 6,026 against Rs. 6,895 in the previous year, while the expenditure rose slightly from Rs. 6,163 to Rs. 6,316. The decrease in receipts was due to the military changes at Pachmarhi and Jubbulpore brought about by the war. Owing to the increasing importance of the garden at Pagara it was decided to station an Assistant Overseer in residential charge there.

District Gardens.

102. The total receipts fell from Rs. 12,856 to Rs. 12,706, while the expenditure rose from Rs. 30,108 to Rs. 32,116: thus the net expenditure increased from Rs. 17,252 to Rs. 19,400. The inadequacy of the water-supply and the lack of suitable gardeners remained the principal difficulties with which the District Gardens had to contend. While some improvement was effected, sufficient funds were not available for dealing adequately with these difficulties. It is a costly matter sinking new or deepening old wells, and installing power pumping plant, while trained gardeners are few and command a higher pay than the Superintendents of District Gardens can offer.

4—FORESTS

FORESTS

[Reports of the Conservators of Forests of the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles, on the Forest Administration in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914-15, with the review thereon, and Statistical Abstract, Volume II, Financial.]

Forest areas.

103. During the course of the year the total area of forest under the control of the Forest Department decreased by seventeen square miles, from 19,684 to 19,667 square miles. The area of A Class forest increased by twenty-seven square miles, but this increase was more than counterbalanced by decreases of seventeen and twenty-seven square miles in the areas of B-1 and C Classes of forests respectively. The increase in A Class forest was shared by all the Circles, and was mainly due to afforestation, revision of boundaries and the purchase of private land. The decrease in B-I forests occurred in the Northern and Southern Circles from disforestment and transfer to the A Class. The whole of B-I forest in the Northern Circle has now been disforested. The entire decrease in C Class forest was in Berar and was due chiefly to disforestment. The percentage of Reserved Forests on the total area of the Central Provinces was the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 19·7, or approximately one-fifth. During the year 29·24 square miles were finally settled, while at the close of the year settlement operations were in progress in respect of an area of 22·85 square miles.

Demarcation and Survey.

104. The total expenditure on demarcation work during the year was Rs. 22,562 against Rs. 25,748 in the previous year, showing a reduction of Rs. 3,186. Out of the total outlay of Rs. 22,562 a sum of Rs. 2,697 was spent on new works, *viz.*, on 103 miles of new demarcation, the erection of 3,111 new

pillars and the demolition of 1,441 old ones. The five-year schemes of demarcation work were nearly worked up to in all of the Divisions except in the Melghat and Saugor Divisions. The scheme for the Melghat Division has been revised and is to begin from 1915-16, while that for the Saugor Division is still pending the revision and simplification of boundaries which is in progress.

The field work done by the Survey of India Department during the year was confined to the Berar Circle in which parties Nos. 5 and 6 continued their operations. The former party worked in the Akola Division in which a Reserved Forest area of $7\frac{1}{2}$ square miles was surveyed on the 2-inch scale. The latter, in addition to carrying out Forest Surveys on the 2-inch scale, with boundary traverses on the 4-inch scale, completed the survey of the remaining portions of Dadgaon and Gumi Regular Felling Series in the Buldana Division, and also of small areas of B and C Classes of forest. Survey work was also continued through the agency of the local staff in all the three Circles. The total expenditure incurred during the year on the constitution of State Forests amounted to Rs. 42,715 against Rs. 43,631 in the previous year.

Working-plans.

105. Revised working-plans were sanctioned during the year for the forests of the Nagpur-Wardha and Bilaspur Divisions. The Revenue Officer's reports on the working-plans for the Balaghat and Melghat Divisions were submitted for orders, while good progress was made with the working-plans for the Chhindwara, Akola, Yeotmal, Amraoti, North-Raipur and South-Raipur Divisions. Out of the total of 19,667 square miles of forest under the control of the Forest Department, working-plans had been sanctioned for 11,360 square miles, new plans were under preparation for 5,830 square miles, plans have still to be taken in hand for 3,611 square miles, and no plans are required for 2,113 square miles—mostly B-I Class forest ultimately to be opened for cultivation. The annual plans of operations were generally adhered to as far as practicable, but certain projects had to be abandoned owing to the reduction of expenditure on account of the war.

Roads, buildings, tanks and wells.

106. The total expenditure on communications amounted to Rs. 90,331 as compared with Rs. 1,37,628 in the previous year, the decrease of Rs. 47,297 being due to the curtailment of the budget. The outlay on new works was reduced and only Rs. 56,776 were spent during the year as compared with Rs. 1,04,046 in the preceding year. The new works on which this amount was spent consisted of 175 miles of regular cart roads, 35 miles of coupe and feeder roads, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles of inspection and other paths, $339\frac{1}{2}$ miles of alignments with road traces and three river crossings. The sum of Rs. 33,555 was spent on repairs over a length of 5,270 miles. The total outlay on buildings was Rs. 78,355 against Rs. 90,667 in the previous year. The saving of Rs. 12,312 was made on both new works and repairs. On the former Rs. 50,347 was spent, and Rs. 27,442 on the latter. Notwithstanding the limited funds available good progress was made in the important work of housing the subordinate establishment, to which 88 per cent of the total outlay of Rs. 50,347 was devoted. Good progress was also made in extending the buildings of the Forest School at Balaghat, which has now accommodation for fifty students. The total expenditure on tanks, wells and other miscellaneous works fell from Rs. 28,347 to Rs. 25,446, of which Rs. 17,520 was spent on new works and Rs. 7,926 on repairs.

Forest offences.

107. The total number of forest offences reported during the year fell from 12,981 to 12,556. The reduction of 425 took place under all heads of offences, except one, and was attributed mainly to more effective check and supervision on the part of the staff and to the levy of heavier compensation in cases compounded. The offences, in which the largest decrease took place were unauthorized fellings and unauthorized grazing. Of the total number of cases reported, two per cent were taken into Court, eighty-three per cent were settled by compensation, three per cent remained undetected and twelve per cent were pending at the close of the year. Of the 314 cases taken into Court, convictions were obtained in 254 cases. Of the 11,518 cases compounded, compensation was recovered in all save eight: the average compensation realized per case and per person was respectively Rs. 9-12-7 and Rs. 3-9-6 in the Northern Circle, Rs. 8-6-9 and Rs. 2-11-5 in the Southern Circle and Rs. 11-1-6 and Rs. 3-10-7 in the Berar Circle.

108. The area over which fire-protection was attempted rose from 11,409 square miles to 11,705 square miles. All three Circles contributed towards this increase. As the result of a successful year's working, 98 per cent of the area over which protection was attempted, was successfully protected at a cost of Rs. 1,10,491. Excluding the Hoshangabad Division where the protection was completely successful, the lowest percentage of failure of fire-protection, ·007, occurred in the North-Mandla Division, and the highest, 7·7, in the Nimar Division. The average cost of protection per square mile decreased from Rs. 9-11-2 in the year 1913-14 to Rs. 9-7-0 in 1914-15. **Protection from fire.**

109. The area worked by systematic fellings rose from 180,239 acres in 1913-14 to 184,715 in 1914-15. In addition to this, unregulated fellings were carried out in all Divisions, except Damoh, of the Northern Circle, and in the Berar Circle. In the former they were generally restricted to areas open to commuters and those over which the working-plan prescriptions are at present held in abeyance, while in the latter to C Class forests and Nistar areas in Betul. The total number of animals grazed in Government forests during the year was 3,748,741 against 3,956,717 in the previous year. The decrease of 207,976 animals was shared by all the Circles, and was mainly due to the mortality among cattle during the previous year and to the exclusion of transit cattle from those shown under full grazing rates. During the year 1,835,635 animals grazed at full rates, 1,674,664 at privileged rates and 238,442 free of cost, the corresponding numbers in the preceding year being respectively 2,641,741, 1,101,483 and 213,493. The total value of grazing calculated at full rates amounted to Rs. 23,14,698 against Rs. 16,56,347 in the preceding year. The increase of Rs. 6,58,351 was due to the introduction of revised grazing rates both in the Central Provinces proper and Berar. The actual revenue from grazing rose from Rs. 11,86,190 to Rs. 14,09,149, an increase of Rs. 2,22.959. In the Central Provinces proper there was a decrease of Rs. 77,468, but this was more than counterbalanced by an increase of Rs. 2,24,912 in Berar where the enhanced rates were well received, while Rs. 45,205 was recovered on transit licenses, and Rs. 30,310 as surtax for grazing in the A Class forests of Berar. The grazing incidence per head of cattle varied in the Northern Circle from 2·1 to 6 acres and in the Southern Circle from 2·9 to 12·9 acres. In Berar the minimum and maximum incidences in A Class forests were 2·8 and 10·1 acres and in C Class forests 0·5 and 0·7 of an acre. The average incidence for the Provinces as a whole was 2·8 acres against 2·7 acres in the previous year. The total outturn of major produce fell by 8,018,084 cubic feet. The decrease was in both timber and fuel, and was ascribed to the dullness of the market. The total value of minor produce removed by all agencies rose by Rs. 18,699. **Exploitation, sylviculture and management.**

110. The gross revenue rose from Rs. 32,69,894 in the previous year to Rs. 32,73,539, and the expenditure fell from Rs. 20,07,883 to Rs. 18,80,927. There was thus an increase of Rs. 1,30,601 in the net revenue of the year, which rose from Rs. 12,62,011 to Rs. 13,92,612. **Financial results.**

5—MINES AND QUARRIES

MINES AND QUARRIES

Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces for the calendar year 1914, and Volume I of the Statistical Abstract.]

111. Two new coal mines were opened during the year, bringing the total number of collieries in the Provinces from five to seven; but the total output of coal, which rose from 235,650 tons in 1913 to 244,745 tons, was almost entirely derived from the four mines at Mohpani, Ballarpur, Barkuhi and Chandameta. The largest increase in output was at Ballarpur. A decrease of some 5,000 tons at Mohpani was counterbalanced by an increase at Barkuhi, while the outturn at Chandameta remained practically unchanged. The general average price of coal at the pit-head was Rs. 4-7-3 per ton, or a few annas higher than that of last year. Collieries gave employment to 3,043 persons as compared with 2,665 in the preceding year. **Collieries.**

112. At the commencement of the year manganese prospects were bright, and there was considerable activity everywhere. The number of mines increased **Manganese Mining.**

MINES AND QUARRIES

by ten. The outbreak of the war, however, gave a serious setback to the industry, and the closure of the American and Continental markets, and the higher freights and insurance charges prevailing, restricted the output and affected prices. Throughout the Provinces, the output for the year fell from 550,595 to 510,936 tons, or by 7 per cent. The total value of the provincial output also fell from Rs. 31,88,390 to Rs. 22,02,272, and there was a decline in the average value at the pit's mouth in all the important districts, the provincial average being Rs. 4-5-0 against Rs. 5-12-7 per ton in 1913. The average number of persons employed in manganese mines rose from 10,330 to 10,702 during the year.

Miscellaneous.

113. The extension and full working throughout the year of the Tata Iron and Steel Company's concession at Lohara in the Chanda District raised the quantity of iron extracted from 844 to 16,523 tons. The quantity of limestone won from the Jubbulpore quarries, the number of which increased by three, more than doubled, and the price per ton advanced from ten to twelve annas at the pit's mouth. Eight other miscellaneous quarries for galena, Fuller's earth, soapstone, iron ore and clay were worked. The health of the workmen was generally good during the year. There were slight outbreaks of cholera at the Kachurwahi, Waraigaon and Kodegaon mines in Nagpur, at the Tirodi mine in Balaghat, and in the Jubbulpore district generally. There were also slight outbreaks of small-pox in the same districts, and at the Mohpani mine in Narsinghpur. The number of accidents occurring during the year fell from 27 to 24, and the number of lives lost from fifteen to twelve. In most cases the accidents were due to mischance or to carelessness and disregard of rules and orders by the victims themselves. There were in all 102 inspections as compared with 106 in the preceding year. Eight prosecutions under Section 22 (3) (*e*) of the Indian Mines Act were instituted and all ended in the conviction of the accused. 72 prospecting licenses and 16 mining leases were granted as against 48 prospecting licenses and the same number of mining leases in the previous year.

MANUFACTURES

6—MANUFACTURES

[Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911) in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914, and Volume I of the Statistical Abstract.]

Number of Factories, Employees, Accidents.

114. The year 1914 was the first whole year during which the new Act was in force throughout the Central Provinces and Berar. It was marked by the low price of cotton and by the outbreak of the war. As a result the total number of factories fell from 487 in 1913 to 438 in 1914, of which thirty-eight remained closed during the year. The total number of operatives employed was 47,159 as against 48,842 in the previous year. There was a small decrease in the number of accidents from 172 to 162. It is satisfactory that no fatal accidents occurred and that there was a fall of one-third in the number classed as serious. Sanitary conditions were, on the whole, satisfactory and the health of the operatives good.

Prosecutions. Supervision.

115. Apart from the prosecution of thirty-eight factory Managers in the Wardha district for not submitting the Annual Return No. I, there were eighteen prosecutions under the Act, seventeen of which resulted in convictions. The number of inspections fell from 1,380 to 776, while only ten factories located in outlying areas were left uninspected.

TRADE

7—TRADE

[Report on the Rail-borne Traffic of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March 1915, and Volume of Prices and Wages in India.]

General.

116. Omitting animals and treasure, the total rail-borne traffic of the year amounted to 56½ million maunds valued at 28½ crores of rupees as compared with 74¾ million maunds valued at 38¾ crores of rupees in the preceding year. The trade of the Province depends mainly on the success of its agriculture, and the crops which directly influenced the returns for 1914-15 were the spring crops of 1913-14 and the autumn crops of 1914-15. The spring or rabi crops of 1913-14 suffered from various causes and the final outturn was estimated at less than 75 per cent of the normal, while in the case of the autumn or kharif crops the outturn was approximately normal. The variations in the average price of the

main kinds of agricultural produce were much more marked than usual, and this result was ascribed to the outbreak of war in August 1914. The rapid rise in the price of wheat, and to a less degree of gram, was largely due to war panic. Stocks were not seriously short but were held up owing to uncertainty as to the future. The plentiful harvest of rice, and the fact that ordinarily it more than suffices for the Province, prevented a large rise in its price. The slump in cotton was due to panic and uncertainty, while the price of linseed and til, which are largely produced for export, also responded to the unsettled state of the export trade.

Imports.

117. The bulk of imports decreased from 25¾ to 25 millions of maunds and the value fell from 13¾ to 12½ crores of rupees. The greatest decrease occurred in metals, in which the value of articles imported fell from 157 lakhs to less than 110 lakhs ; but there were also large decreases in brass, unwrought and wrought, copper, commercial forms of wrought iron and steel, machinery and hardware and cutlery. None, however, of this great decline in trade was in any way due to diminished prosperity or to any fall in the purchasing power of the people of the Provinces ; it was simply due to the dislocation of trade on the outbreak of war and the general curtailment of expenditure.

Exports.

118. Exports fell in bulk from 49 to 31½ millions of maunds and in value from 25 to 16 crores of rupees. The chief decreases were under the heads of raw cotton, grain and pulse, manganese ore and oilseeds. The decline in the export of raw cotton was due to much of the year's crop being held up in the hope of obtaining better prices, and in the case of grain and pulse it was almost entirely due to the nervousness of traders who held up stocks. The fall was considerable in the case of rice, but the bulk of the decline was in wheat of which the exports fell from 6½ to a little over 1¾ million maunds. The drop in the export of manganese ore was due to the closure of the Central European markets and to the lack of sea transport facilities. The oilseed trade declined greatly, the value of exports being less than half that of an ordinary year. This decline was attributed partly to the large contraction of area put under oilseed crops, partly to the holding up of considerable stocks in order to secure better prices.

8—PUBLIC WORKS

PUBLIC WORKS

Administration Report on the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department for 1913-14, and Statistical Abstract, Volume I.]

119. The year 1914-15 was again one of great activity in the Public Works Department and the expenditure, Rs. 87,10,000, was the largest hitherto incurred in the Province, as the grants were given on a liberal scale and good progress was made in disposing of them. The expenditure on Imperial works was Rs. 3,22,017, on Provincial works Rs. 73,53,639 and on Contribution works Rs. 10,30,999. The percentage of expenditure on establishment exhibited a further decrease from 17·56 to 15·27.

Imperial Works.

120. Good progress was made in the construction of the new General Post Office and the Post and Telegraph Audit Office at Nagpur. Both were nearing completion at the close of the year. The bungalow for the Postmaster-General, the combined Post and Telegraph Office at Tajnapeth, and the Post Offices at Katol and Pandhurna were completed, and combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Sakoli, Jalgaon and Katghora were in progress.

Provincial Works.

121. The expenditure on Provincial works amounted to Rs. 73,53,639, of which Rs. 41,82,217 was spent on original works, the balance being spent on maintenance and repair of existing roads and buildings, establishment and plant. The principal works carried out are detailed below.

Buildings.

122. The expenditure on Forest buildings amounted to Rs. 89,556. Bungalows for an Assistant Conservator at Akote, and for the Forest officer at Betul and a bungalow and office at Mandla were completed. The enlargement of the Forest School at Balaghat and the construction of an office at Buldana were in progress. Excise buildings accounted for an outlay of Rs. 99,107. The new distillery at Badnur and the bonded warehouses at Baloda Bazar and Nainpur were completed.

The new distillery at Raipur neared completion, while bonded warehouses at six places were begun.

A sum of Rs. 12,168 was spent on additions and alterations to Government House at Nagpur, and Rs. 9,663 on improvements to the Residency at Pachmarhi. Satisfactory progress was made in the construction of the Legislative Council Hall and the large programme of residential buildings at Nagpur was practically completed by the completion of fourteen bungalows during the year.

The expenditure on Land Revenue buildings was Rs. 1,89,399. Extensions to the office of the Commissioner of Settlements at Nagpur and Tahsil buildings at Lakhnadon, Niwas and Katghora were completed. The Civil Court building at Khamgaon was converted into a Tahsil building and Tahsil buildings at Katol, Gondia and Hinganghat were in progress. A portable Settlement Office was constructed at Seoni at a cost of Rs. 36,792. Considerable progress was made in the construction of quarters for officials at various Tahsils.

Expenditure for the Agriculture Department amounted to Rs. 52,906. The Agricultural Laboratory at Nagpur was completed at a total cost of two-and-a-half lakhs, while the Experimental Farm at Sindewahi and the Cattle-Breeding Farm at Boregaon were practically completed. The demands of the Educational Department amounted to Rs. 6,82,061. The Urdu Normal School at Amraoti, the Anglo-Vernacular School at Malkapur, a Laboratory for the High School at Amraoti, and a bungalow for the Inspector of Schools at Amraoti were completed. The more important works, however, such as the Arts College at Jubbulpore, the Hostel and Laboratory attached to the Muhammadan High School at Amraoti, and the High Schools at Bilaspur, Chanda, Khamgaon, Bhandara and Betul were still in progress at the close of the year.

The Department of Law and Justice accounted for an expenditure of Rs. 2,92,939. The extensions to the Civil Court House and the new Circuit House at Wardha were completed at a total cost of Rs. 76,985, while the Munsiff's Court House at Gondia was practically completed. The construction of the new Circuit House at Buldana, and of Munsiff's Court Houses at Ramtek, Arvi, Burhanpur and Murwara was in progress. Materials to the value of Rs. 31,317 were collected for the construction of new Civil Court Houses at Narsinghpur and Chhindwara, a Munsiff's Court House at Khurai, and additions and alterations to the District Court Houses at Bilaspur and Mandla.

The expenditure on Police buildings was Rs. 4,47,653. The Kotwali at Amraoti, the Police Station Houses at Ganeshpeth and Burhi, and the Police Office at Chanda were completed, while a bungalow for a Deputy Superintendent of Police at Akola and quarters for the Police Sergeants at Nagpur and Kamptee were commenced. New Station houses and quarters were in progress at fifty places.

The total expenditure on Hospitals, Dispensaries and Asylums was Rs. 1,45,977, of which the chief item was Rs. 1,13,197 for the new Medical School at Nagpur. Bungalows for the Civil Surgeons at Nagpur and Jubbulpore were completed, and the construction of the Central Vaccine Depôt at Nagpur was begun. The expenditure on Jails amounted to Rs. 25,610.

Communications.

123. The total expenditure on communications was Rs. 30,49,224, of which Rs. 13,88,165 was laid out on original works. The most important lines of road communication under construction during the year were the Nagpur-Amraoti, Chanda-Allapalli-Sironcha, Anji-Wadhona and Malkapur-Chikli roads. Considerable sums were again spent on causeways and bridges, with the object of keeping important lines of communication open throughout the year. The submerged bridge over the Wainganga river at Balaghat was completed at a cost of Rs. 61,411, and several other bridges of this type were in progress. Rs. 29,459 was spent on Railway feeder roads, while the expenditure on arboriculture amounted to Rs. 74,079.

124. Water-works and drainage works are the two classes of Sanitary works with which the Public Works Department is concerned. Rs. 72,074 was spent during the year on the construction of the Akola Water-works and Rs. 10,000 on a supplementary water-supply at Buldana, while work was started on the Water-works at Arvi and Damoh, the estimate for each being slightly over four lakhs of rupees. Estimates for the Masod Tank Scheme at Amraoti, and for the Water-works at Wardha were ready, but had to be held in abeyance on account of the war. The projects for the water-supply of four other towns were under consideration and schemes for the water-supply of seven towns were either under investigation or being worked out. Satisfactory progress was made with the Nagpur Drainage Scheme. At the close of the year an expenditure of Rs. 7,73,903 had been incurred against an estimate of sixteen lakhs of rupees. A large amount of rock cutting delayed the work on the main sewer, but at the close of the year only five chains remained to be done, while five branch lines had been completed. A Drainage Scheme for Craddock Town, Nagpur, at a cost of Rs. 2,10,550 was sanctioned. The Wardha Drainage Works were completed at an expenditure of Rs. 1,79,983 against an estimate of Rs. 1,93,000, and work on the Harda Drainage Scheme was started during the year. Drainage projects for Saugor, Bhandara and Bilaspur were prepared. **Sanitary Works.**

125. Among the works undertaken for District Councils were the construction of the Khandwa-Jaswari Section of the Khandwa-Melghat road, a high level bridge over the Kandali river on the Seoni-Malwa feeder road, and the improvement of the Gourelia-Pendra road. A bungalow at Pachmarhi for Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal was commenced and Rs. 31,805 spent during the year. The subsidiary buildings of the Rajkumar College at Raipur were completed and the boarding-house was begun. **Miscellaneous.**

9—IRRIGATION

IRRIGATION

[Brief Note on Irrigation work done in the Central Provinces during the year 1914-15, for the Irrigation portion of the Public Works Department Annual Administration Report, and Statistical Abstract, Volume I.]

126. The monsoon, throughout the Province, gave ample and well-distributed rain, and cultivators found it unnecessary to take as much water as in the previous year when the rainfall was deficient. Consequently the total area irrigated was only 44,405 acres compared with 71,021 acres in the preceding year. The irrigation done during the year more nearly approached that of 1912-13 when 49,174 acres were irrigated. **Area under irrigation.**

127. The progress on the Mahanadi Canal was very satisfactory. The head-works were completed during the year and the opening ceremony was performed by the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner on the 12th February 1915. The general progress on the Sukha dam of the Tendula reservoir was not as satisfactory as had been expected, owing to the contractors not providing sufficient plant. Good progress, however, was made with the distribution system. On the Wainganga Canal progress was very satisfactory. The head-works were nearly completed, and of the remainder of the project, about two-thirds had been completed by the end of the year. A second revised estimate for the Gorajheri tank, providing for lining with concrete $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the main canal, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the Sawargaon distributary, and for shutters on the waste weir of the tank, was sanctioned by the Government of India towards the end of the year. The work provided for under the former estimate had been practically completed, but this additional work was found necessary in order to provide sufficient water for the extensive area of sugarcane which the Central Provinces Sugar Syndicate proposes to grow on waste lands under the tank. On nearly all the works the progress made was better than in the previous year, and the difficulty of securing an adequate supply of labour was largely overcome by better arrangements for importing labour from districts where a surplus existed. **Major Works.**

IRRIGATION

Expenditure.

128. The grants and expenditure under the various fund heads were:—

Head of Account.	Grant.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
35.—Construction of Protective Irrigation Works	18,14,000	18,34,950
42.—Major Works—Working Expenses	78,000	77,880
49.—Productive Irrigation Works	25,00,000	25,04,498
43.—Minor Works and Navigation	1,04,000	1,06,730
Deposits—Contribution	...	5
Total ...	52,96,000	54,14,003

Revenue.

129. The rates for irrigation of all crops remained the same as in the previous year, except the rate for kharif crops in the Raipur and Drug districts which was raised from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-8-0 per acre in the former district, and from Rs. 3 to Rs. 3-8-0 in the latter. The total revenue demand for major and minor works taken together was Rs. 1,69,421, of which Rs. 1,41,625 was collected during the year.

General.

130. The Agricultural Department, by demonstration and experiment at the several Government Farms, did much to stimulate irrigation. The demonstration work was chiefly concerned with the introduction of better methods of rice cultivation, and the extension of cultivation of sugarcane, groundnuts and garden crops.

CHAPTER V

REVENUE AND FINANCE

[Further details and statistics will be found in Part IV (*b*) of the Statistics of British India.]

GROSS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

131. The following statement compares the receipts and expenditure and closing balances under the various heads for the years 1913-14 and 1914-15 :—

	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing balance.	
	1913-14.	1914-15.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1913-14.	1914-15.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Revenue ...	1,11,90,264	1,18,20,873	70,11,620	70,38,398	...	...
Provincial Revenue ...	3,06,83,749	2,93,07,324	2,88,02,504	3,05,15,078	1,09,53,278	97,45,524
Deposits of Local Funds—						
District Funds ...	33,92,932	37,00,345	31,71,624	36,75,015	18,91,819	19,17,149
Jaglia Local Cess Funds ...	5,22,411	5,10,851	5,28,330	5,17,946	2,94,690	2,87,595
Other Local Funds ...	11,99,125	12,60,482	10,67,153	11,45,754	6,61,983	7,76,713
Municipal Funds ...	28,44,337	29,43,007	26,57,652	30,96,627	10,56,529	9,02,909
Total ...	4,98,32,818	4,95,42,882	4,32,38,883	4,59,88,818	1,48,58,299	1,36,29,890

REVENUE AND FINANCE—IMPERIAL

132. The Imperial Revenue for 1914-15 was Rs. 6,30,609 more than that of 1913-14, while the expenditure in 1914-15 was Rs. 26,778 more than that of the previous year. The heads under which striking differences occur are given in the following table :—

Revenue.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1913-14.	1914-15.		1913-14.	1914-15.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue ...	93,56,130	94,07,881	Famine Relief (Civil) ...	14,785	1,12,620
Opium ...	5,20,891	5,02,835	Protective Works—Irrigation.	19,80,776	18,34,906
Stamps ...	19,69,794	18,10,646	Major Works—Irrigation ...	5,51,339	7,19,349
Excise ...	29,06,025	27,63,790	Civil Works—(P. W. O.) ...	11,65,861	10,80,752
Customs ...	3,00,919	2,54,937	Other heads ...	32,98,859	32,90,771
Income-tax ...	4,31,370	4,54,454			
Irrigation Major Works ...	1,44,739	1,03,880			
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.	—47,83,264	—38,37,803			
Other heads ...	3,43,660	3,60,253			
Total ...	1,11,90,264	1,18,20,873	Total ...	70,11,620	70,38,398

REVENUE

133. *Land Revenue* (*Imperial share one-half*).—The increase was mainly due to increased receipts under Ordinary Revenue.

Opium.—The decrease was due to the fall in the sale of opium occasioned by the dislocation of trade on account of the war.

Stamps.—The decreases occurred under (*a*) Sale of General Stamps and (*b*) Sale of Court-fee Stamps, and were due, partly to the effects of the financial crisis at the end of 1913 and to two successive moderate harvests in certain districts of the Province, partly to the dislocation of business caused by the present war.

Excise.—The large decrease was shared by all the heads, and was mainly due to the fall in consumption in consequence of conditions due to the war.

Customs.—The actuals of 1913-14 included Rs. 9,000 on account of arrear-recoveries. The decrease was due to the disturbed condition of trade on account of the war.

Income-tax.—The increase was mainly under Ordinary Collections, and was the result of the revised methods of assessment introduced in August 1911 and the comparatively prosperous condition of the people.

Irrigation Major Works.—The decrease was due to good and seasonable rainfall which diminished the demand for water from irrigation tanks.

Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.—This head has been newly opened under the orders of the Government of India to show the net result of the various contributions or assignments from Imperial to Provincial Revenues and *vice versâ*. Hitherto such contributions have been shown as deductions from, or additions to, the Imperial and Provincial shares of Land Revenue, but they will in future be shown under this new head, which will have the advantage of exhibiting clearly the transactions under Land Revenue. The decrease was chiefly due to the absence of non-recurring assignments, and also to the reduction of the assignment in connection with the Famine Relief Scheme.

EXPENDITURE

Famine Relief (Civil).—The increase was due to the scarcity that prevailed, during the earlier part of the year, in the Jubbulpore Division.

Protective Works—Irrigation.—The increase in 1913-14 was mainly due to the good progress made in connection with the Tendula Canal. Special provision had been made for that year on account of the improved labour conditions brought about by the scarcity.

Major Works—Irrigation.—The increase was mainly due to the proportionate increase of capital outlay.

Civil Works (in charge of Public Works Officers).—The decrease was due to the greatly diminished expenditure on the new General Post Office at Nagpur and on the Postal and Telegraph Minor Works.

REVENUE AND FINANCE—PROVINCIAL

134. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1913-14 and 1914-15. The details of the Major heads under which material differences have occurred are given below:—

Revenue.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1913-14.	1914-15.		1913-14.	1914-15.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue ...	93,61,099	94,12,949	Land Revenue	40,18,749	41,15,623
Stamps ...	19,69,794	18,10,646	Excise	2,59,881	3,10,009
Excise ...	87,18,074	82,91,371	Interest on Ordinary Debt ...	1,38,183	1,74,443
Income-tax ...	4,31,370	4,54,454	General Administration ...	9,30,430	9,71,025
Forest ...	31,86,453	32,72,529	Law and Justice—Courts of Law...	27,86,971	28,17,148
Registration ...	4,18,084	3,47,873	Law and Justice—Jails ...	6,80,139	7,51,965
Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	2,89,281	2,58,662	Police	34,11,226	34,00,413
Education ...	2,03,667	2,14,529	Education	22,02,034	26,15,062
Receipts in aid of Superannuation, Retired and Compassionate Allowances.	1,24,284	1,78,421	Medical	11,66,605	13,98,606
Miscellaneous ...	1,86,431	2,07,555	Miscellaneous	1,25,804	1,62,041
Civil Works (P. W. O.)	2,40,045	2,60,654	Reduction or Avoidance of Debt...	12,80,000	4,53,574
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.	47,83,264	38,37,803	Irrigation Minor Works ...	5,73,720	5,00,729
Other heads ...	7,71,903	7,59,878	Civil Works (C. O.)	3,37,559	6,13,734
			Do. (P. W. O.) ...	65,40,226	73,20,526
			Other heads	43,44,977	43,40,180
Total ...	3,06,83,749	2,93,07,324	Total ...	2,88,02,504	3,05,15,078

REVENUE

The variations under the heads which are divided in fixed proportions between Imperial and Provincial have been explained under Imperial Revenue and Finance. The variations under the remaining heads are noted below :—

Forest.—The increase was due partly to the natural growth of revenue and partly to the introduction in the Berar Circle of the enhanced rates under the new grazing rules.

Registration.—The heavy decrease, which mainly occurred under Fees for Registering Documents, was due to the falling off in registration business owing to the disturbed condition of trade on account of the war.

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—The decrease was chiefly under Magisterial fines, which were reduced on account of the disturbed condition of trade.

Education.—The increase was due, partly to the provincialization of some of the schools, partly to the increase in the number of boys and the full effect of the increased rates of fees.

Receipts in aid of Superannuation, Retired and Compassionate Allowances.—The increase was due to increased pension contributions paid by District Councils, owing to the revision of the pay of teachers in vernacular schools, and to an increase in the number of officers paying contributions at the higher rates under the Indian Civil Service Family Pension Regulations.

Miscellaneous.—The increase was mainly under Unclaimed Deposits and was partly counterbalanced by decreased receipts from the sale of land and houses, &c.

Civil Works (in charge of Public Works Officers).—The increase was due to larger realization of revenue under Rents of Buildings, Sales of Buildings, Sales of Produce and Recoveries from Electric Installations.

EXPENDITURE

135. *Land Revenue.*—The increase was mainly due to (*a*) the inception of Settlement operations and map correction work in new districts, (*b*) increased expenditure under Salaries and Travelling Allowance owing to the recall of officers from leave, (*c*) greater charges on land revenue collections and (*d*) payments to district and village officials. These were partly counterbalanced by a decrease under Management of Government Estates owing to a diminished expenditure under Outlay on Improvements.

Excise.—The increase occurred under District Executive Establishment and was due to the re-organisation of the Excise Department which was undertaken in the latter part of the year. There was also a nominal increase under Superintendence, due to the fact that the charges on account of the Commissioner of Excise were shown under this head, with reference to Note 104-A, Appendix P, Civil Account Code. There was a small decrease under Distilleries owing to the merging of the Distillery Staff in the general Excise Staff with effect from the date of re-organisation.

Interest on Ordinary Debt.—The increase was the result of the larger advances to cultivators and loans to weavers which were necessitated by the scarcity in certain districts of the Province.

General Administration.—The increase was mainly on account of the purchase of a railway saloon and a motor-car for the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner.

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—The increase was under Criminal Courts and resulted from the larger expenditure on Travelling Allowances and Contingencies.

Law and Justice—Jails.—The main causes of the increase were dearness of rations, the rise in the number of prisoners and large purchases of raw materials for meeting the demands of the Supply and Transport Department for articles of Jail Manufacture.

Police.—The increase was mainly under District Executive Force and was due, partly to the revision of the cadre of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors and other Police reforms, partly to fewer absences of superior officers on leave.

Education.—The increase was general and was caused mainly by larger grants sanctioned in aid of Municipal and Local Schools, grants-in-aid paid out of the Government of India assignments, the appointment of officers on special duty in connection with the Nagpur University Scheme, appointments of a second Inspectress and Assistant Inspectresses of Schools and their establishments, and the equipment of the Engineering School and motor classes started during the year.

Medical.—The increase was chiefly the result of larger payments to Local Bodies out of Sanitation grants, heavier expenditure under grants to Hospitals and Dispensaries and additional appointments of Civil, Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

Miscellaneous.—The increase was mainly due to large expenditure incurred on the acquisition of land for the extension of the Amraoti town and to a special grant to the Saugor Municipality to cover deficit balance.

Reduction or Avoidance of Debt.—The decrease was due to the fact that the maximum of Rs. 80,00,000 fixed by the Government of India for the Famine Relief Scheme was reached in the year 1914-15.

Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation.—The larger outlay was due to the special provision of funds on account of the abnormal labour conditions caused by scarcity in the early part of the year.

Civil Works (in charge of Civil Officers).—The increase was mainly caused by heavier payments to District Councils for the maintenance of buildings and roads transferred to the control of the Local Fund Engineers.

Civil Works (in charge of Public Works Officers).—The increase was mainly due to additional expenditure on Educational buildings, the construction of roads, Establishment, the purchase of new steam-rollers and tools and repairs to tools and plant.

CHAPTER VI

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

I—DETAILS OF CENSUS

DETAILS OF CENSUS

136. An account of the above subject will be found on pages 37—54 of the Administration Report for the year 1911-12.

2—BIRTHS AND DEATHS

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

System of registration.

137. No change was made in the system of registration of vital statistics except in the Balaghat district, where better arrangements were made for the collection of statistics in forest villages. The Forest Officers were made responsible for sending the statistics complete to the Civil Surgeon on a fixed date for incorporation in the latter's monthly return. The annual exhortations and the issue of instructions for the correct classification of diseases led to better registration in municipal towns, but there was still much room for improvement. During the year 791 persons were prosecuted and fined Rs. 807-1-0, an average of Re. 1 per defaulter, and 138 were warned for failing to report.

Births.

138. The healthiness of the previous year 1913 was reflected in the increased birth-rate of the year under report. The number of recorded births was 714,917 as compared with 685,557 in 1913; the respective ratios *per mille* of population work out at 51·37 and 49·26 against the quinquennial mean of 50·80. Most of the districts recorded an excess of births over the figures of 1913. The percentage of male to female population was 104·32.

Deaths.

139. The number of recorded deaths rose from 421,395 to 510,652 and the death-rate from 30·28 to 36·69, or 6·41 *per mille* over the previous year; it was still, however, below the quinquennial mean of 37·05. The proportion of infantile to total mortality was sixty per cent, an increase of three per cent as compared with the previous year, when the figures were exceptionally good. This rate, though still deplorably high, is not surprising in view of the less healthy conditions of the year.

Chief diseases.

140. The mortality from various diseases showed an increase under every head except small-pox. The ravages of cholera, under which head 20,345 deaths were recorded, were particularly severe, and the part played by fairs in the dissemination of the disease was again evident. Small-pox claimed fewer victims than last year. Plague appeared only towards the end of the year, when serious epidemics occurred in Nagpur, Saugor and Hoshangabad, spreading subsequently to other districts. The fever mortality rose from 195,534 deaths in 1913 to 234,528 in 1914, or by 2·81 *per mille*. Dysentery and diarrhœa also were responsible for an unusally high mortality.

Special measures.

141. The anti-plague measures were chiefly confined to inoculation and evacuation. The total number of inoculations was 7,994 against 2,046 in the previous year. Apart from epidemic work the plague staff was usefully employed

in travelling dispensary work. The proposals drawn up by the Sanitary Board for increasing the efficiency of the vaccinating staff were sanctioned by the Local Administration, and a definite advance was made during the year towards dealing with the grave problem of infant mortality by the entertainment in several towns of municipal midwives or female Sub-Assistant Surgeons. The sale of quinine continued, but in some districts the result was disappointing. In Nimar, where malarial fever was very prevalent, sales were poor; the vendors selected were not shopkeepers and consequently no interest was taken by them. The total sum realised by sales, however, rose from Rs. 9,352 to Rs. 9,572.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION — 3—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

[Report on the Inland Emigration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th June 1915, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

142. As was foreshadowed in last year's report, the recruiting figures fell with the return of more stable economic conditions. In the mining and cotton tracts the local demand for labour more than fully absorbed the supply, and recruiting from outside went on for the manganese mines. By far the larger proportion of coolies recruited for Assam came from the Native States adjoining the Central Provinces. Recruitment by contractors under Chapter III of the Act, which was finally abolished at the close of the year, showed a marked decline. In view of the impending abolition of this form of recruitment, many contractors, whose licenses expired during the course of the year, did not renew them; licenses were also freely refused, especially to new applicants. Thus there were only twelve contractors against forty-five contractors and sub-contractors last year; and the number of recruiters, which was also artificially limited to a standard maximum in the Jubbulpore district, fell from 312 to 121. There was an almost corresponding decline in the number of coolies recruited, from 2,715 to 1,322. The fall in sardari recruitment under Chapter IV was less marked. Throughout the Province the recruiting agency fell from seventeen local agents and 4,651 sardars to sixteen local agents and 4,386 sardars, the Jubbulpore, Seoni and Balaghat districts alone showing any increase under this head. There was a somewhat larger decline in the number of recruits secured, which fell to 4,788. Four sardars specially empowered under the now repealed Section 90 of the Act worked in the Bilaspur district during the year, against four in the Jubbulpore district last year; they recruited only three coolies.

Working of Act VI of 1901.

143. The number of irregularities and prosecutions naturally fell with the decline in contractor's recruiting and the decrease in the strength of the agency. There were only three prosecutions all of which were successful; an appeal by Government against the acquittal on appeal of one of the notorious Bilaspur offenders referred to in last year's report also ended in the restoration of the original conviction.

Financial.

144. Receipts during the year fell from Rs. 5,436 to Rs. 2,576 and expenditure from Rs. 923 to Rs. 695.

MEDICAL RELIEF — 4—MEDICAL RELIEF

[Annual Notes on Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914, and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

Number of dispensaries.

145. The year opened with 272 hospitals and dispensaries. During the year fourteen new dispensaries were opened and thirteen closed. There were thus 273 hospitals and dispensaries at work at the end of the year, twenty-nine of which were maintained by the State, 166 by Local Bodies and twenty-nine by Railways, the rest being either private or State-aided institutions. Three peripatetic dispensaries, which were sanctioned as an experimental measure for one year to work in unhealthy areas in the districts of Raipur, Mandla and Betul, commenced their work about the middle of 1914. Besides these there were thirteen epidemic travelling dispensaries in charge of medical subordinates working under the control of the Sanitary Commissioner in different parts of the Province.

MEDICAL RELIEF

146. The total number of patients treated at the various dispensaries in the Province was 1,746,424 as compared with 1,674,980 in the preceding year. The increase, which was shared by most of the districts, was contributed by both in-door and out-door patients. The daily average showed a further rise of 37·95. **Number of patients.**

147. The total number of private dispensaries open at the end of the year was thirty-eight as compared with thirty-six in the preceding year. Most of these institutions were maintained by Missionary bodies, while fifteen were supported by private individuals or companies. The total number of patients treated was 147,242 of whom 1,679 were in-door and 145,563 out-door patients. **Private dispensaries.**

148. The ailments for which relief was chiefly sought were malarial fever, diseases of the digestive system, eye, skin and ear diseases, ulcers, all diseases of the respiratory system except pneumonia and tubercle of the lungs, injuries (local and general), diseases of the nervous system, pyrexia of uncertain origin, rheumatic fever and rheumatism, diseases of the connective tissue, dysentery and all other general diseases. The increases as compared with the previous year were chiefly under ulcers, all other diseases of the digestive system, skin and ear diseases, dysentery and diarrhœa; while the decreases were under eye diseases, dyspepsia and pyrexia of uncertain origin. **Relative frequency of diseases.**

149. The number of surgical operations rose from 47,622 in 1913 to 49,029 during the year, and the number of selected operations from 3,936 to 4,106. Among the selected operations there were 1,105 extractions of lens for cataract, 176 operations for stone in the bladder, 173 amputations and 320 obstetric operations. **Surgical operations.**

150. The total receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 14,19,260 as compared with Rs. 11,41,255 in 1913. This large increase of nearly three lakhs of rupees was common to all sources of income. The Government contribution increased by Rs. 1,166 under the head "Salaries" and by Rs. 55,615 under the head "Otherwise". The increase in the latter was due to the special grant of Rs. 50,000, made for the construction of quarters for medical subordinates and to a special grant of two lakhs made in 1914 towards the improvement of hospitals and dispensaries. Indian subscriptions showed a further increase of Rs. 22,041. **Income.**

151. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 9,10,185, against Rs. 6,29,549 in 1913. The increase was mainly due to a larger expenditure on European medicines, miscellaneous charges and on buildings or repairs during the year. **Expenditure.**

5—TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

[Triennial Report on the Lunatic Asylum in the Central Provinces for the years 1912, 1913 and 1914, and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

152. The total number of lunatics in the Lunatic Asylum at Nagpur was 310 at the beginning of the year 1914; there were 118 admissions, two re-admissions, thirty-five discharges and twenty-one deaths, so that the population at the close of the year was 374. Of the 118 lunatics admitted, twelve were criminal and the remainder non-criminal. Twenty-five were discharged as cured and eight as improved. There were 338 admissions into the hospital during the triennium as against 418 in the previous three years. The number of deaths, though it showed an increase of one over the preceding year, gave a death-rate for the whole triennium of 61 *per mille*, one of the lowest death-rates in any Asylum in India. **Numbers and Health.**

153. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 72,042 as compared with Rs. 84,975 in the previous year. The general increase in the past three years was due to structural improvements, increase of staff and the high rates of food grains. The average cost per lunatic was Rs. 210 against Rs. 229 in 1913. The amount realised from paying patients fell from Rs. 4,591 to Rs. 3,760. **Expenditure.**

154. The profits of the manufacturing department increased from Rs. 2,591 to Rs. 3,687. The chief occupation of the male lunatics was employment on the farm, dairy, garden and general cleaning, while a few were engaged in cooking, weaving, smith and carpentry shops. The females were employed in cleaning grain, gardening and general cleaning in their wards. **Industries and Improvements.**

SANITATION

6—SANITATION

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914, and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

Chief sanitary works.

155. The most important water-works schemes in connection with which construction work was in progress during the year were those at Akola, Arvi, Buldana and Damoh. The work in connection with the supply of water to Government House and the bungalows on Seminary Hill was completed. The infiltration gallery of the Raipur water-works was further extended by 304 feet. The main drainage schemes on which work was in progress were those of Wardha, Nagpur and Harda. The Wardha drainage scheme was completed and the works were handed over to the Municipal Committee for maintenance. In Nagpur plans and estimates, amounting to Rs. 2,10,550 were sanctioned for the drainage of Craddock Town. For the Harda drainage scheme plans and estimate costing Rs. 2,13,610 were sanctioned, and work was commenced in November 1914.

Municipal sanitation.

156. The year was one of increased sanitary activity in Municipal towns; the adoption of standard designs and the drawing up of definite sanitary programmes is producing good results. The opening up of crowded areas, the introduction of building rules, and the construction of market stalls, public latrines and protected wells made steady progress, the improvement being most noticeable in Chhindwara, Saugor, Wardha, Burhanpur, Raipur and Hoshangabad. The Sanitary Board performed a large amount of useful consultative work. The question of employing a separate Health Officer for the large Civil Station of Nagpur was under consideration. The development of the Sanitary Inspectors scheme is still slow but there are fourteen trained men in the Central Provinces, and it is anticipated that the Local Administration's offer to smaller towns to pay half the salary of a Sanitary Inspector will prove of great assistance. Medical inspection of school children received increased attention; the plague staff in rural areas and the sub-assistant surgeons in many towns did most useful work.

Rural sanitation.

157. During the year six villages were brought under the operations of the Village Sanitation Act, while from one the provisions of the Act were withdrawn. Receipts amounted to Rs. 1,73,406 and expenditure to Rs. 1,54,697, the figures for the previous year being Rs. 1,60,532 and Rs. 1,14,540, respectively. The allotment of expenditure, which was mainly on the clearing of village sites and the construction and repairs of drains, roads, tanks and wells, showed a great improvement over the previous year. In the "Town Fund" villages and other villages managed by Mukaddams the receipts amounted to Rs. 64,563 and the expenditure to Rs. 66,864. Here, as in villages under the Village Sanitation Act, however, the expenditure on water-supply was insufficient.

VACCINATION

7—VACCINATION

[Notes on Vaccination in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914-15, and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

Mortality from small-pox.

158. The number of deaths from small-pox was 3,133 in 1914-15 as against 6,174 in 1913-14. The heaviest mortality was in the Drug district.

General record of vaccination.

159. The total number of vaccination operations performed during the year in British territory was 602,643 as compared with 622,376 in 1913-14. The decrease is attributed to outbreaks of plague and to transfers of officers owing to the war. Re-vaccinations showed a decrease of 22,582; less work was done in thirteen districts, the greatest falling-off being in Narsinghpur, where the decrease of 6,369 operations was attributed to the discontinuance of the peculiar local custom of vaccinating mothers after child-birth. In Chanda the staff was not ready for work until one month after the working season began and hence the number of operations fell short by 5,553. In Balaghat the decrease of 3,818 was due to the absence of coolies from manganese mines and to the want of lists of children available for vaccination. Outbreaks of plague and cholera and sickness among the staff account for the low figures in other districts.

Vaccination in Municipalities.

160. There were 41,665 births in Municipal towns during the year, and 12,441 deaths of children under one year of age. The number of infants successfully vaccinated was 26,516, or 91 per cent of the children available, an increase of seven per cent over the preceding year.

161. Owing to limited accommodation lymph could not be prepared on a large scale at the Central Vaccine Depôt at Nagpur for supply to all the districts in the Province. In all, five districts received their supply from the Depôt and the quality was good. The improvement in the method of preparation and the quality of the product is shown by the small number of calves employed there as compared with that in districts which depend on local manufacture. The special Depôt buildings, for which Government gave a grant of Rs. 50,000, were under construction; when they are complete the supply of lymph will be extended to the whole Province. **Lymph.**

162. The total cost of the Department was Rs. 95,604 as against Rs. 84,241 in the previous year. This excess was due to the improvement in the pay of the staff from the 1st October 1914 and to the additional establishment entertained at the Central Vaccine Depôt. The cost of each successful vaccination has in consequence also risen from Re. 0-2-3 in the previous year to Re. 0-2-6. Of the total expenditure, Rs. 75,355 was contributed by Local Funds and Rs. 8,800 by Municipalities, the remainder being paid from Provincial Funds. **Expenditure.**

CHAPTER VII

INSTRUCTION

I—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

163. An account of this subject will be found on pages 97 and 98, Sections 296—304, of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1911-12.

2—EDUCATION

EDUCATION

[Report on the state and progress of education in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914-15, and Volume V of the Statistical Abstract.]

General.

164. The year's figures show an increase of 210 schools and 9,213 scholars. This increase was not, however, so large as that recorded in 1913-14. In the primary stage of education, where alone the decline was noticeable, the presence of plague and cholera and possibly to some extent financial depression resulting from the war affected attendance, while habitual absentees were struck off the rolls and unwieldy classes were brought within the limits imposed by staff and accommodation. At the close of the year, the total number of educational institutions was 4,529 and the number of scholars 347,666, the apparent fall in the provincial total as compared with the previous year being due to the exclusion of the figures relating to institutions maintained by the Feudatory States. The percentage of the total number of scholars to the total population of school-going age was 16·65 as compared with 16·21 in the preceding year. In the Chhattisgarh Division there was a distinct advance in the education of the low caste of Chamars and there were signs of progress in this direction, mainly due to Mission agency, among the depressed classes in Berar and in the Nagpur Division.

Expenditure.

165. The total expenditure on education rose from Rs. 39,80,802 in 1913-14 to Rs. 48,29,941 in 1914-15, of which Rs. 4,25,052 was spent from Government of India grants through the Public Works Department. The total expenditure from Government of India grants was approximately eleven and one-third lakhs. Proposals for the revision of the Grant-in-Aid Code were submitted to the Local Administration and sanction has been given to their adoption since the close of the year under review.

Recent changes.

166. The cadre of the Indian Educational Service was strengthened by the addition of a third post of Head Master and two posts of Inspectors of Schools. The appointment of an Assistant Inspector for each Circle has also been sanctioned. The minimum salary of Assistant Inspectresses in the Provincial Educational Service was raised from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 and the pay of the post of Head Mistress of the Girls' High School, Amraoti, was also increased from Rs. 250 to Rs. 400. Pending the re-organization of the Provincial Service, personal allowances were granted to officers in that service. The minimum pay of uncertificated teachers was raised to Rs. 8.

The Report of the Central Provinces and Berar University Committee referred to in the Administration Report for 1913-14, which was recently received, has been published for criticism and is being considered by the Administration.

Collegiate Education.

167. There was an increase of 164 in the number of students receiving collegiate education. To meet the continually growing demand for admission, a temporary lecturer was added to the staff of the Jubbulpore Arts College, the staffs of the Morris and Hislop Colleges were strengthened, and everything possible was done in these colleges to accommodate the maximum number of eligible students. Good progress was maintained in the construction of the new buildings for the Jubbulpore Arts College, the completion of which is expected during the current year, and final arrangements were completed for taking the Morris College under the direct control of Government. The administration and academic performances of all colleges were satisfactory, the results in Science being the best yet obtained.

Secondary education—Boys.

168. There was a marked increase in the number of Secondary Schools and scholars, particularly in Berar, where the demand for Secondary education is growing. The number of pupils in High Schools increased by 471 and in Middle Schools by 2,078. Six new High Schools were opened, three under Government management at Damoh, Betul and Khamgaon, two under private management and one under Municipal management. Thirty-two new Middle Schools were brought under recognition by the Department, of which five were under Municipal management and twenty-seven under private management. There was a further increase in the number of candidates for the Matriculation Examination held in 1915. The percentage of passes fell from forty-two to thirty-eight, which was, however, considerably above the University average.

Primary education—Boys.

169. There was an increase of only 6,407 pupils in the Primary Stage as against an increase of 26,495 recorded in 1913-14. The recurring grant of Rs. 50,000 received from the Government of India in 1914-15 was devoted entirely to the opening of more Primary Schools and was distributed among four Divisions. 127 schools were opened.

Training Schools.

170. The results of examinations in the Training College, Jubbulpore, continued to be satisfactory and there was a steady increase in the numbers of both graduates and undergraduates under training. The class for the re-training of Vernacular School teachers made an excellent start, and two additional classes of this nature were opened at Amraoti and Nagpur. Steps were taken for the establishment of an additional Normal School at Seoni.

Technical and special education.

171. The most important event in Technical education was the opening of the Engineering School, Nagpur, in July 1914 and the organisation of a class in motor engineering in connection with this School. The Engineering School, which is in charge of the Principal of the Victoria College of Science, provides a three years' Civil Engineering course up to the Sub-Overseers', and in special cases up to the Overseers' standard, and seven scholarships are offered to students in this course. In Mechanical Engineering a four years' course is provided leading up to the First Class Boiler Certificate. The Motor Class offers a two months' course for chauffeurs, who are taught to drive and to execute minor repairs. A sum of Rs. 4,000 was again transferred from a Government of India grant to the Agricultural Department for the award of scholarships to sons of cultivators in High Schools and subsequently in the Agricultural College.

Female education.

172. The number of pupils in institutions for Indian girls rose from 18,524 to 19,006. There was an increase of thirty-eight in the strength of Anglo-Vernacular Middle and High Schools, and four candidates passed the Matriculation Examination. The Girls' High School, Amraoti, was recognised for the Matriculation Examination by the University of Allahabad. The number of pupils rose to thirty and further hostel accommodation was provided for an increasing number of boarders. Six Aided Primary Schools were provincialised.

Schools for Europeans.

173. The number of schools remained unchanged, but there was a slight increase in attendance. A sum of over Rs. 19,000 was contributed by Government towards the maintenance and education of orphans and poor children. There was great activity in school building during the year, more than Rs. 67,000 being paid from the special Government of India non-recurring grant set apart for this purpose. Grants were given for the training of teachers outside the Province and there was an increase in the number of trained teachers.

EDUCATION

Muhammadan education.

174. There was only a small increase of 142 in the number of pupils under instruction against an increase of over 2,000 last year. The number of pupils in Secondary Schools rose by 195, and there was some increase in the number of pupils in Girls' Schools. The Muhammadan High School Hostel at Amraoti was completed and the construction of the High School begun A contribution of Rs. 30,000, of which half was a special grant from the Government of India and the remainder added by the Local Administration, was sanctioned at the close of the year for the construction of a building for the Anjuman High School Jubbulpore.

3—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

Vernacular Presses.

175. During 1914-15 the number of publications amounted to 114 as against 103 in 1913-14 and 111 in 1912-13. This increase was mainly under the heads Poetry and Geography. As in the previous year, great care was exercised in registering publications in conformity with the statutory orders framed from time to time by the Government of India under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. Of the books registered, twelve were in English, fifty-nine in Hindi, twenty-seven in Marathi, one in Urdu (written in Nagri characters), three in Sanskrit, one in the Marathi dialect, one in Canarese; nine were in two and one in three languages. There were twenty-three books of a religious character, sixteen treating of geography, three of science including mathematics, one of history, five of law, six of languages, two of philosophy and one of politics; nine were works of poetry, two of fiction and one of drama; while the rest dealt with miscellaneous subjects. Thirty-one books were of an educational character.

176. The number of newspapers and periodicals published in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year under report was thirty as against twenty-nine in the previous year. During the year two papers, one of which, the *Marwari*, was the leading Hindi newspaper in the Province, ceased to appear, while one new paper was started. The *Hitavada* among the English and the *Maharashtra* among the Marathi newspapers continue to be the leading organs in the Province and have some influence among the educated public. The *Berar Samachar* is still the leading paper in Berar. The *Hitakarini* (Jubbulpore), which has a monthly circulation of 2,250, continued to provide healthy and loyal literature for the Hindi-speaking public in general and for the student class in particular.

4—LITERARY SOCIETIES

LITERARY SOCIETIES

177. The number of Literary and Scientific Societies rose from fifty-four to fifty-nine. The majority were subscription libraries and depended for their support chiefly on subscriptions from members. Four societies received grants from Government, while Municipalities contributed towards the maintenance of eleven.

5—ARTS AND SCIENCES

ARTS AND SCIENCES

Arts and Sciences.

178. The improvement of the Nagpur Museum continued during the year under report, but much further progress cannot be expected until very extensive alterations and additions to the building have been made. This work, which had been approved by the Administration, could not be taken in hand owing to lack of funds. A considerable number of birds and mammals were added to the Natural History Section. A collection of ethnological exhibits, representative of the aboriginal tribes of the Province, was made. The average number of visitors to the Museum fell to 277 persons per diem, the decrease being attributed to the serious outbreak of plague in Nagpur during the year. The Raipur Museum continued to attract the public of Chhattisgarh and was visited by no less than 97,393 persons during the year. The Weaving School attached to this Museum, which has done some useful work, has now been taken under the supervision of the Textile Expert.

CHAPTER VIII

ARCHÆOLOGY

[For further information, see Archæological Survey of India (New Series), Vol. XIX.]

179. The expenditure of the Public Works Department on monuments and antiquities during the year 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 14,442. The work of restoring the temple at Lassur in the Amraoti district is in hand. An expenditure of Rs. 4,800 was incurred against an estimate of Rs. 12,851. Rs. 5,348 was spent on repairing, clearing vegetation, removal of shrubs, preservation and improvements to the forts at Lanji and Garhi and the temple at Baihar, in the Balaghat district, the Dashaotar temple at Markanda and the Fort wall at Ballarpur in the Chanda district. A retaining wall to protect Colonel Fraser's tomb at Nimbola in the Nimar district was completed.

CHAPTER IX

MISCELLANEOUS

1—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

Ecclesiastical.

180. The Diocese of Nagpur was formed in 1903 and includes the whole of the Central Provinces, Berar, the district of Sambalpur in Orissa, Central India, Ajmere-Merwara and all stations in Rajputana except Mount Abu. There were no changes during the year.

2—STATIONERY

STATIONERY

181. The total value of stationery supplied to offices and courts from the Central Depôt, including cost of carriage as well as of stationery purchased locally, decreased slightly from Rs. 98,700 in 1913-14 to Rs. 98,526 in 1914-15, but there was again an increase in the Settlement and Police Departments. The charges on account of conveyance of forms increased from Rs. 6,806 to Rs. 7,540. The value of stationery supplied to printing presses, including the cost of carriage, rose from Rs. 1,11,255 in 1913-14 to Rs. 1,22,415 in 1914-15, an increase of 10 per cent.

3—GENERAL

GENERAL

Registration of rainfall.

182. Exclusive of the raingauges managed by the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, the number of which increased from twenty to twenty-two, the number of raingauges maintained during the year was 161 against 155 in the previous year. Of these, fourteen were under the control of the Imperial Meteorological Department, sixteen were in the Feudatory States and the remainder (131) were under the control of the Director of Land Records. Eight new stations were established during the year, two under the charge of the Irrigation Department at the Bodalkasa tank in Bhandara and at Wara in Balaghat, and the remainder under the charge of the Director of Land Records at Deori in Saugor, Newas, Bicha and Bajag in Mandla, Katghora in Bilaspur and Gondia in Bhandara. No raingauges were abolished during the year, but the raingauge at Tikaria in the Mandla district was removed to Narayanganj in the same district and that at Chicholi in the Betul district was shifted to a more suitable site. Only three raingauges remained uninspected during the year.

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